

Wednesday, Feb. 17th

voted for continuation of the debate and 15 against. J. F. Callan (Labor, Rainy River) and J. A. Pinard (Liberal, Ottawa) voted with the Government.

Prior to the division Mr. Raney passed across to Premier Ferguson a copy of the amendment he proposed to move, with the accompanying comment that his suggestion of "bargaining" with the Premier on the matter of debate adjournment was not intended by him to be interpreted as some seemingly had interpreted it.

The By-Election Question.

At the outset of his speech Hon. Mr. Raney scored the Government for its failure to bring on by-elections for the seven vacant seats in the House. The statute, he said, declared that a warrant shall issue for a new election immediately upon the occurrence of the vacancy. Why, asked he, has the Government of Ontario put itself in contempt of the

law by failing to obey the clear language of the statute?

No such situation, he contended, ever before existed in the Province, and he doubted if such a situation ever before existed in any Legislature under British law. Why not, he said, allow the Prime Minister to do the whole thing, "a la Mussolini"? Because, Mr. Raney went on, under the system that has developed in Ontario during the past two or three years the tendency has been more and more away from democracy and representative government.

Referring to the election of W. F. Langworthy in the Federal riding of Port Arthur, Mr. Raney asked if the Minister of Lands and Forests for Ontario would deny, for instance, that the Ontario Government used all the machinery and patronage at its disposal to bring about the election of the straight Conservative candidate in Port Arthur.

"I know he will not deny," said Mr. Raney, "that he deliberately held back the announcement of the tenders for 9,000 square miles of pulpwood for political reasons, and that he made the announcement at a political meeting held in Port Arthur on Oct. 23, in the interests of Mr. Langworthy, the straight Conservative candidate."

Hon. James Lyons, Minister of Lands and Forests, told the House he would answer Mr. Raney's questions at a later time.

Rum-Running Continues.

Conditions in rum-running have not improved, according to Mr. Raney, who declared that the situation as it appeared to him called for the most vigorous kind of a protest from the Ontario Government.

"The first half of my Attorney-Generalship," said he, "was during the rule of the Borden and Meighen Governments. During the second half the King Government was in office. So far as I could see there was nothing to choose between them in this matter. Neither the Conservative nor the Liberal Government made any serious attempt that I could discover to interfere with this scandalous traffic."

"Both Ottawa Governments knew that the Ontario breweries and distilleries were marketing their output to gangs of outlaws who were smugglers and criminals under the laws of Canada, for, of course, as the Attorney-General pointed out in this House last year, a considerable quantity of the whiskey and beer that is nominally exported from this Province to the United States is not really exported at all, but is bootlegged to Ontario customers. Now the chickens are coming home. These outlaws carry liquors by the underground railways to Uncle Sam and then bring back return cargoes of goods that can be smuggled into Canada at a profit."

Says Customs Involved.

"The Canadian Customs Department have been bedfellows with the Ontario brewers and distillers, and apparently they are still. I suggest that this matter ought to have been the subject of comment and condemnation in the Speech from the Throne."

"What's to be gained by putting it in the Speech from the Throne?" inquired Hon. W. F. Nickle, Attorney-General. "We were told last year to mind our own business. Didn't I put it in last year?"

"You did," said Mr. Raney.

"Did you support it?"

"I did."

"Well, not very heartily."

Redistribution Under Fire.

In introducing his amendment Mr. Raney said: "The Speech contains no reference to the announcement by the Prime Minister, made last October, of a fundamental change in the treatment of the subject of prohibition. The Prime Minister announced last autumn to the hotelmen that, for the future, prohibition would be back in this Legislature as a question of party politics, and if the people don't like that, the Prime Minister says, they can be put out, if they can, with the handicap under which he put them when at the last session of this Legislature he subtracted nine ridings from rural Ontario and added ten ridings to the large cities. This statement of the Prime Minister is the most revolutionary thing in Ontario politics in a quarter of a century—and not a lines of the Speech devoted to it."

Stating that the various clauses of his amendment were, in effect, the very words and pronouncements of Premier Ferguson himself, Mr. Raney said: "The Conservative friends of the Ontario Temperance Act took Mr. Ferguson at his word and helped to make him Prime Minister of Ontario, and in consequence of that support he is Prime Minister today—because nearly two-thirds of

his followers in this House represent prohibition ridings.

To Complete "Bargain."

"So that not only was there an announcement by Mr. Ferguson, but there was a promise; there was a bargain. The people performed their part of the bargain. They made Mr. Ferguson Prime Minister, and now they demand of him that he shall perform his part of the bargain."

Finds No Assistance.

Premier Ferguson, on rising, said that his honorable friend had treated with levity the efforts made by the Government last year to find within the principles of the O.T.A. something that would aid promotion, to some extent, of a remedy to combat the evils of the drink traffic. But that was a habit of Mr. Raney's, according to the Premier, who declared that he (Mr. Raney) never would allow himself to appreciate anything the Government did. One reason, said the Premier, that 4.4 beer had failed to satisfy the general public was that Mr. Raney, for decidedly partisan reasons, had linked himself up with the bootleggers to destroy the public's taste for 4.4.

"You can't state a single instance," said the Premier, "where he ever has tried to assist the Government. Instead, he continually harps on criticism. That may be his way of aiding the Ontario Temperance Act, but it is difficult to understand. This apostle of all that is virtuous in the Province is not leading his crusade so much in the interests of public welfare as in deliberately attacking the Government."

Denies Political Issue.

The Premier claimed that he had tried to keep the liquor question out of politics, but, said he, "Who dragged it in? None other than the little Napoleon who has just finished speaking. He and Ben Spence have organized some donkey-engine bureau to keep the business always before the public eye."

Claiming that the stand he took at the hotelmen's meeting had been declared on the floor of the Legislature last year, Mr. Ferguson added: "The question, I will say, will not be settled without reference to the people, and it will be in the constitutional way as I see it. When this Government is ready to make an announcement, we will make it to the people and ask the people to signify their approval in the way of a general election."