

Wednesday, March 3rd

## SINCLAIR REQUESTS POSITION VACATED BY LYONS BE FILLED

### Ferguson Retorts He Might Be Given Another Night to Sleep On It

#### STATEMENT IS MADE

Consideration of the situation in the Provincial Legislature brought about by the resignation of Hon. James Lyons, Minister of Lands and Forests, from his Cabinet position, held the attention of the House for a few brief moments yesterday.

W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, rising before the orders of the day were called, noted that the Prime Minister was President of the Council, Minister of Education and now acting Minister of Lands and Forests. "How soon," he asked, "may we expect duties to be lightened by the appointment of a new Minister of Lands and Forests?"

"At the earliest possible moment," replied Mr. Ferguson smiling. His words were greeted with laughter from the Opposition forces.

#### Asks for Appointment.

Mr. Sinclair continued to press for something more definite, and Mr. Ferguson retorted that he might be granted "opportunity of sleeping on it for one night more."

"There has been too much sleeping already," declared Mr. Sinclair, concluding the discussion on this phase of the situation.

Later Mr. Lyons himself rose to supplement the statements he had made on Monday. He had declared, without being explicit, that members of the House, lawyers, were legally protected in holding retainers from corporations, pulp and paper and mining industries, and in dealing with the Government. He had further said that he had found that these members had not been unwilling to use their influence to bring about profitable transactions for their clients. His remarks had drawn an immediate reply from Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, who declared, that it must be understood that they did not apply to him.

"I desire," said Mr. Lyons, rising yesterday—as a matter of privilege—to make a brief statement to the House. From newspaper reports of some remarks of mine made in this House yesterday, it is quite apparent that I was either misunderstood or that my language was unfortunate. In referring to the legal profession, my only idea was to make a comparison between the position they occupy and that of the ordinary men of business in dealing with any public affairs and departments of Governments. As I understand it, lawyers who occupy seats in the Legislature are entitled to appear with clients and make representations before a Minister; while it would appear, in my view, that the same privilege is denied me.

#### No Personal Reflections.

"My reference was not intended to be personal in any sense. I had no special case or individual in mind. I was only speaking in a general way. I have had business relations with members of the legal profession and my own experience has taught me that a lawyer usually puts all his energies and influence into the case he may have in hand. In many cases, as every one knows, they are paid very high fees. This, no doubt, is their right, and I am not condemning their practice in any sense. I was only endeavoring to make a comparison between the position the professional man occupies with the position the unfortunate business man, like myself, occupies."

## JOYNT JOINS DENIAL OF LIQUOR SUPPORT

### Seeks Apology From Raney, But Receives Little Satisfaction

#### IS HIGHLY INDIGNANT

John Joynt, Conservative member for North Huron, who was absent from Legislature on Monday when Government members took Hon. W. E. Raney to task for "discourtesy" and "near libel" in asking the Government if the campaign funds of certain candidates (Mr. Joynt included) had not been met in the last election by brewing and distilling interests, took up cudgels in his own behalf yesterday.

#### Got No Outside Help.

Mentioning that he had seen Mr. Raney's questions in The Toronto Star of Feb. 26, Mr. Joynt, visibly perturbed, said: "I was amazed at the audacity of the honorable member for East Wellington. I did not, and could not, conceive what he had in his mind. But, in order not to detain the House, I shall bring this matter to a point. I ran in two elections in North Huron—in 1919 and 1923—and I paid my own expenses. I never received one farthing in moneys toward my expenses.

"Let me say," Mr. Joynt went on, "that I know less about this alleged support than the honorable member from East Wellington. (Conservative applause.) And I say right here, Mr. Speaker, that I demand an apology from the honorable member. In fairness to me, and to this House, I demand it. There is nothing to the allegations you have made"—turning to Mr. Raney—"and I know nothing about it. And I say this, to this House, in the same way as I'd say it on my oath, believing it to have the same effect."

#### Raney's Reply.

Hon. Mr. Raney—I suppose I might say this much for the honorable member for North Huron, whom I've known for a number of years, and whom I highly respect: I accept his statement without reservation. Might I also add that, voluntarily or involuntarily, I assume that he received the same benefit as did all Conservative candidates through printed matter supplied by the central Conservative fund.

But Mr. Joynt was not to be placated so easily. "I've put this thing in a clear light," he argued. "If he is not gentleman enough to apologize, I will leave it to the gentlemen of the whole House."

Mr. Raney remained silent, and business of the House got under way.