

# GOVERNMENT CONTROL PROPOSED BY BRACKIN TO INCREASE REVENUE

## Defeat of Amendment Is Believed Assured

While the Brackin Government-control amendment introduced into the Ontario Legislature yesterday created somewhat of a sensation, its ultimate defeat was regarded as almost certain in House corridors last night.

The attitude of W. S. Haney, Conservative member for West Lambton, who almost disregarded it and remarked that the Conservative party was charged with the responsibility of forming Government policies, was considered significant.

Although J. A. Currie (Conservative, Southeast Toronto) claimed 45 "wet" supporters in his speech, 7 of them from the Opposition benches, it is not deemed likely that all the Conservative members unsympathetic to the O.T.A. will cast their votes behind Mr. Brackin, although they would heartily support any Government move in the direction pointed out by the West Kent member.

## Liberal Member for West Kent Introduces Surprise Budget Amendment Directly Designed to Divide House on Liquor Question

### PLANS TO RETIRE FROM PUBLIC LIFE

## Seeks "Honest Opinion" of Members After Scathing Denunciation of Temper- ance Act and Outspoken Declaration of Personal Political Independence

Government control of the sale and distribution of alcoholic liquors in Ontario was introduced as a major issue into discussions at the Ontario Legislature yesterday by R. L. Brackin, K.C., Liberal member for West Kent, in the form of an amendment to the motion of the Provincial Treasurer that the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the Budget.

Mr. Brackin coupled the prospect of another Provincial deficit with declarations as to the uselessness and unfairness of the present Ontario Temperance Act as reasons for its abolition.

The Brackin amendment, which was seconded by J. A. Pinard, Liberal member for East Ottawa, is designed, according to its mover, to divide the House on the question of Government control. It also precludes other amendments. The text of the amendment follows:

#### Linked With Deficit.

"This House regrets that the financial statement by the Honorable the Provincial Treasurer indicates a large deficit last year of approximately \$5,000,000, and forecasts a deficit next year of at least \$1,500,000; and this House, recognizing the necessity of other sources of revenue, urges upon the Government the adoption at this session of a system of sale of spirituous and malt liquors in the Province under Government control, with provision for local option, believing, as this House does, that such a system will divert to the Treasury of the Province the millions of dollars now annually going into the pockets of illicit vendors of liquor, and will prove of great assistance in wiping out the business of bootlegging, illicit manufacture, and smuggling of spirits, with all their attendant evil consequences."

#### Comes as Bombshell.

Mr. Brackin's out-and-out Government control proposal took the Legislature by complete surprise. Although generally credited with the intention of criticizing the O.T.A. and moving some form of amendment, the expectation was that he would move for the abolition of doctors' prescriptions.

The West Kent member, who announced during the course of his speech that he would not seek reelection after the completion of the present Legislature, declared his amendment to be intended to give every member an opportunity of expressing his "honest views" on the subject of the O.T.A.

He secured the floor when Mr. Pinard, on Thursday last, moved the adjournment in his name, although H. Fisher, K.C. (Liberal, West Ottawa) was supposed to have followed the Provincial Treasurer in the Budget debate. It is expected that Liberal Leader W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., when he speaks, will dissociate the Liberal party from the amendment introduced.

W. S. Haney, Conservative member for West Lambton, and A. C.

Lewis (Conservative, Northeast Toronto), who followed, did not discuss the merits of the Brackin amendment. Mr. Haney briefly expressed the opinion that the Conservative party, which had been given a mandate to govern, were men capable of forming administrative policies "without any suggestions from the honorable member from Kent," and Mr. Lewis did not finish his speech at the adjournment hour.

At the outset of his remarks Mr. Brackin expressed approval of Mr. Pinard's action of Thursday last in adjourning the debate for him. "Mr. Pinard did that for a purpose," he said, "and before I'm through this afternoon the purpose will be made apparent to the House. For it's high time that certain people in this House, and of this House, come out from under the barn and let the electors know where they stand."

#### Praise for Price.

Referring to Hon. Mr. Price's Budget, Mr. Brackin extended congratulations to the Treasurer, saying, "You've done mighty well with a hard job," and adding that it had never been his intention to pose as a financial critic. Criticism of the "miserable, picayune, paltry, party type," he said, which had characterized most of the addresses in the Legislature never got one very far. Nothing was to be gained, he said, by imputing ulterior motives to those who disagree with one. Criticism, he continued, might be directed at the Cabinet, but the very fact that Cabinet Ministers were in the House should be construed as a sincere and honest desire on their part to do something for the Province. If matters were approached in this light, he considered, much would be done to avert repetition of the wrangling which has featured past debating in the Legislature.

"They criticize my honorable friend the Prime Minister," said Mr. Brackin, "for keeping quiet on certain matters. Well, let me say if I were in his place I, too, would try to get by as easily as I could. I would try to keep quiet until the end of the session. Then I would send you all home happy by telling you that something may be done next session. (Laughter.) Because that is what my honorable friend intends to do. I say it, because I—a political, unregenerate sinner like my honorable friend—believe that in politics the end sometimes justifies the means."