

Thursday, March 25th

REQUESTS FERGUSON TO NAME COMMITTEE TO PROBE CHARGES

W. E. Raney Denies Innuen- does Contained in Ken- nedey Statement

MUST GIVE AND TAKE

With a demand that the Prime Minister name a committee to investigate the charge or statement of Tom Kennedy, Conservative member for Peel, to the effect that thousands of people in the Province of Ontario believed that Abe Orpen, race-track principal, had contributed to ex-Attorney-General Raney's election expenses in 1923, Mr. Raney faced the Legislature yesterday.

The flare died down after Premier Ferguson had explained that Mr. Kennedy was only referring to "innuendoes" that he had heard, and illustrating to Mr. Raney the effect of his "insinuations" against Messrs. Joynt and Sweet in connection with alleged liquor campaign funds, and Mr. Kennedy had declared that he was only repeating what was common gossip. Mr. Kennedy said he didn't for a moment believe the gossip himself.

Reads Newspaper Statement.

"That is a highly amusing statement, apparently, to some members of the House," Mr. Raney said, after reading the newspaper report, which was greeted with some laughter. "Last year innuendoes and insinuations were made by some half-dozen members of the House occupying that side, involving the honor of Mr. Drury and myself. Mr. Drury and myself went before that committee and one member of the House asked questions on that matter and it ended."

"When Mr. Lennox in 1922 made charges against the O.T.A. involving my personal conduct he had the grace to say he would appear before the Public Accounts Committee with witnesses to support the charges. Now I am not suggesting the member for Peel should make those charges specific. What I do ask is that the Prime Minister will name a committee of this House to inquire into these charges to give him an opportunity to substantiate them. If he has, as I believe he has, the instincts of a soldier or a sportsman or a gentleman, he will join with me in asking the Prime Minister to appoint a committee."

J. A. Currie suggested that Mr. Raney should include a denial of the charge in his question of privilege, which Mr. Raney accordingly did, stating there was not "a scintilla of truth" in them.

Must Give and Take.

Premier Ferguson declared that Mr. Raney did not exhibit such rigid ideas of propriety when he made "even graver charges against the member for North Huron (Mr. Joynt) and the member for Dundas (Mr. Sweet). He must not think he can stand up in this House and throw brickbats and not expect occasionally to have somebody retaliate. He must realize in the hurly-burly of debate he must take as well as give. My honorable friend, as I recall, did not have the grace to apologize, although he was twice asked to do so by the honorable member for North Huron."

Mr. Raney—I accepted the honorable member's statement. There was no occasion for an apology.

Mr. Sweet referred to certain of Mr. Raney's questions, which had been given four days' start of possible reply, and again expressed the opinion that Mr. Raney ought to apologize.

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New Government Bills Make Their Appearance

Four new Government bills made their appearance in the Legislature yesterday, none of them, however, of outstanding importance. Hon. Lincoln Goldie presented his Psychiatric Hospital Bill, which supplies regulations and status for this important new hospital. Attorney-General Nickle introduced a Surrogate Court Act amendment to get over existing difficulties in the probate of wills; a Municipal Act amendment and a Marriage Act amendment, which, according to his explanation, overcomes the difficulty presented by a person's inability to swear as to the date of his birth and sanctions affidavits.