

Premier Will Resign If Any One Can Prove He Knows About Legals

Debate on Brackin Amendment Reaches Dramatic Climax as Ferguson Promises Legal Action if Raney Makes "Insinuations" Outside Legislature

FAMOUS CIGAR BOX CAUSE OF TROUBLE

House Continues in Session at 2.30 a.m. as Government Insists That Division Be Taken—Statement by Charles Matthews Is Mentioned

Press Gallery, Legislature, 3.05 Thursday morning—It now seems likely that the division on the Brackin amendment will not be reached before dawn. The probabilities are that the amendment will be defeated by from 40 to 50 votes, with party bolters on both sides on the House.

At this time D. J. Taylor, Progressive, North Grey, has the floor.

Promising his immediate resignation if any one could prove he had personal knowledge of the matter of the famous "cigar box" and the Home Bank legals, Premier Ferguson in the Legislature at 1.30 this morning invited ex-Attorney-General Raney to make his "contemptuous insinuations outside the House, where he will be made answerable to law."

White with anger, Premier Ferguson declared that "if any accusation Mr. Raney had made during the course of his Budget speech were made in his pet journal or any other paper and I can make him answerable to law I will do it—I give the House and Province the assurance that so far as I am personally concerned I have never had anything to do with any of those transactions, nor any personal knowledge whatever of the matters my friend has discussed."

Before Crowded House.

The Premier's declaration came when the House and galleries were filled, despite the hour, in momentary expectation of the vote on the Brackin Government-control amendment.

The matter was precipitated into violent discussion when Mr. Raney, near the conclusion of a particularly vigorously worded address, said that one would have thought the Prime Minister, as a member of the former Government, would have looked to what took place at Kingston, and seen to it that the matter was cleared up. The "matter at Kingston" was the reference by former Deputy Treasurer Charles Matthews to a "cigar box," which presumably contained money, in the Treasurer's office.

At 2.30 this morning, when many of the members were reading first editions of The Globe, which had been distributed throughout the Chamber, the debate was still proceeding.

With the Government insisting upon a division on the Brackin amendment before adjournment, and the Opposition protesting at the proposal, Hon. Frank Biggs at 11.45 o'clock last night almost tripped up the Government and forced an adjournment on the absence of a quorum of twenty.

Ex-Attorney-General W. E. Raney was just commencing his speech, and presumably Government Whip William Ireland had noted the danger, for he was on the sidelines hurrying in a member or two when Mr. Biggs said: "Mr. Speaker, I desire to call your attention to the fact that there is no quorum."

Saved by Whip.

Almost as he said the last word Mr. Ireland jumped into a seat at the far end of the chamber, with William Keith (North York) in tow, and Premier Ferguson resumed his seat at the other end.

Hon. Mr. Raney—Then we adjourn.

Speaker Thompson counted heads and announced: "I count 22."

So the Legislature continued in session.

High Standard Set.

Three speakers held forth during the afternoon and evening up until after 11 o'clock, A. Belanger (Liberal, Russell), Leslie Oke (U.F.O., East Lambton) and Frank W. Wilson (Conservative, Windsor). Again the speeches were of a high standard, the respective members driving home upon an attentive House their respective views upon the financial and political affairs of Ontario, and, in Mr. Wilson's case, the liquor question particularly.

While Mr. Oke's speech was interesting for its intimate presentation of the U.F.O. viewpoint, on the late Drury Government administration and the defection of Hon. Manning Doherty, and Mr. Wilson's for its forcefulness, that of Mr. Belanger, a French-Canadian, was especially commendable from an oratorical standpoint. Mr. Belanger's noticeable French accent only tended to impress the House the more with his well-rounded, vigorously spoken English sentences.

Warns Against Spending.

There was little solace for the Government in the remarks of these three representatives, who held the floor until nearing midnight. Mr. Oke, who always secures an unusually good hearing, because of his independence and freedom of expression, found some things to commend about the present Administration, but he warned that it would go the way of the Drury Government if it did not cease emulating it in the matter of expenditures.

Mr. Belanger's speech constituted a vigorous arraignment on a host of points, including what he declared to be the unstatesmanlike attitude of the Premier in not announcing a liquor policy, and Mr. Wilson appealed to members on all sides of the House to vote on the Brackin amendment as their best judgment dictated, and not be guided against their convictions.

Moves Adjournment.

Hon. W. E. Raney arose to adjourn the debate. Premier Ferguson said the impression had gone abroad that the debate would be closed tonight. In fact, he said, he had arranged with W. E. N. Sinclair, the Liberal Leader, that the debate should be closed. Argument ensued, Mr. Raney objecting to what he characterized "closing of the debate by brute force."

Premier Ferguson asked that Mr. Raney withdraw the expression, and when Mr. Raney made no attempt to do so, he added: "We want no quibbling on this matter."

The Speaker of the House asked Mr. Raney to "take back" the term "brute force," and Mr. Raney submitted to the ruling, using "physical force" instead.

Tribute from Raney.

Hon. Mr. Raney commenced to speak shortly before midnight and failed to secure adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Raney accused the Government of "autocracy" in compelling the conclusion of the Budget debate. In opening his address, Mr. Raney paid remarkable tribute to Provincial Treasurer Price, whom he characterized as one of the most efficient Treasurers the Province had had in the past few decades.

U.F.O. v. Progressives.

Leslie W. Oke, U.F.O. member for East Lambton, in resuming the debate, declared that the Progressive party and the U.F.O. were distinct and separate organizations, he being a member of the latter. He read the list of organization officers as an illustration of that differentiation. The U.F.O. Government of Mr. Drury's, he said, had achieved some good legislation, and would still be in power, he declared, if Mr. Drury had listened to the arguments of the U.F.O. members, and had not recklessly added to public expenditure and debt.

Mr. Oke gave statistics of U.F.O. membership to show that, as an organization, it was rapidly growing. He dealt at length with the organization of his county club, which was educational, as well as commercial.

Mr. Oke recalled that three men, Messrs. Drury, Doherty and Raney, had been brought into the U.F.O. fold in 1919 against the wishes of some, including himself. Mr. Drury's Government had succumbed to the extravagance of the Administration. Mr. Doherty was now down South "convalescing from the disappointment he received at the hands of Mr. Meighen." He added: "The farmers don't want that kind of men."

As for Mr. Raney, Mr. Oke said he did not know whether all the Progressives were followers of his or not. He didn't know where some of them stood, and it was none of his business.

Mr. Widdifield—That is absolutely right.