

Thursday, March 25th

Mr. Raney 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.

Premier Issues Challenge.

Premier Ferguson rose in protest. "If the member will have the courage to make his contemptuous insinuations outside the House, where he will be made answerable to law, I will give him ample opportunity to prove his contention either in regard to the Home Bank bills or this present advertising matter. My friend has pursued a course that is beneath any public man I have ever come in contact with in this or in any other Legislature. My friend hasn't the courage to make a charge against anybody. What he wants to do with his usual tactics is attempt to disseminate suspicion, vilify everybody that he wants to criticize without using the courage that any honest—I cannot use the language in Parliament that I would like to use.

"I dare him to say outside the House what he has said here, and I say further that if any accusation he has made in this House with respect to me is published in his pet journal or any other paper and I can make him answerable to law I will do it.

I do not propose to rest under the suggestion of a man who has not the courage to make a charge and attempts to hide behind his usual method of miserable insinuation.

Offers to Resign.

"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 these transactions, nor any personal knowledge whatever of the matters my friend has discussed. He has not the decency to stand up and say he accepts that, and I give it to him as a public man and Prime Minister of the Province, and if he or anybody else can prove anything to the contrary the Province will have my resignation the moment it is decided."

Mr. Raney—I have long since passed the point when I attempt to answer the Prime Minister in kind. I have nothing to take back, because I have said nothing against him.

Question at Kingston.

"I repeat, one would have thought a member of this House who had been a member of the previous Government, looking to what took place at Kingston, would have seen to it that the question asked Mr. Mathews, the answer to which was prevented, was answered."

Mr. Ferguson—This is not the first time my friend has tried to destroy me, and he has even sought to prostitute the courts, but he had his answer from the Province in 1923. He can make all the insinuations of which he is capable, and he will get his answer when the next election comes.

Mark Vaughan (Conservative, Welland) said he would wait for the Government to provide "real" Government control. The Brackin amendment with its want of confidence in the Province's finances did not provide that, he maintained.

John Joynt (Conservative, North Huron) upheld the O.T.A. as doing "some good" in spite of the statements of Mr. Wilson, the Windsor representative. "Whiskey never made any country," he said.

To Support Brackin.

E. P. Tellier, North Essex, announced his intention of voting for the Brackin amendment. The O.T.A., he said, was no more a temperance act, but a prohibition act, which, in his judgment, was contrary to temperance. His constituents, he said, had voted 84 per cent. for Government control, not because they wanted easier access to liquor, but because it was a wise move in the handling of the liquor traffic.

Mr. Tellier reviewed the effects of the gasoline tax, which had been opposed from his side of the House last session, and presented statistics to show that the taxation burden was unequal and large. He thought the Government would have been well advised last session if they had taken good advice and not passed it.