

Brackin Teases, Coaxes, Scolds, But Fails to Budge Premier

Laird of Queen's Park Replies
"When the Time Comes" and
Sticks to His Dugout in Face
of Appeals to Divulge His
Liquor Policy

CHAMBER BEDECKED WITH OLD "EMPTIES"

Just before "Stand down!" in the Legislature yesterday morning, R. L. Brackin launched a determined attack on the Ferguson defenses, weakened as they were by "a long night of tiring vigil." But Mr. Brackin didn't get very far in his effort to expose the Premier's vulnerable spot. The Premier remained the bulk of immovable granite he always has been. Not a budge from his silence on the "wet" policy of the Government. Not a crack in his armor.

The Wiles of an Angler.

Mr. Brackin, he cajoled, he flattered, he pounded, he patted. He told funny stories, and he told sad ones. He whipped the channels of possibility with all the deftness of the experienced angler. But he did not get a rise.

The West Kent member decorated his Legislature desk with a yriad of bottles. Big bottle, little bottles; "empties," from which—at the order of the Attorney-General—the "sting" previously had been extracted. Entirely surrounded by what once was liquor, Mr. Brackin spoke feelingly of conditions along the border. He told how Windsor was being deluged with spurious spirits from the United States; how Windsor people were paying fancy prices for "Johnny Walker" and "Johnny Haig" and "Sandy McDonald"—actually "so much poison," and worth, according to analytical estimates, from 25 to 50 cents.

Blames the O.T.A.

He charged the O.T.A. with responsibility for conditions whereby Ontario was being made the sole dumping ground for "camouflage" Scotch manufactured in Quebec, as well as in the United States.

"What is the Government going to do?" asked Mr. Brackin.

The Premier stroked his watch-chain and murmured something about "when the time comes—"

"The time has come," said Mr. Brackin. But again the Premier wasn't "having any."

Attorney-General Nickle counter-attacked for his superior officer with some statistics about a rum-running episode. Said he, laughingly: "Can my honorable friend enlighten me on this subject?"

"There is not a subject in the world upon which I could not enlighten the honorable Attorney-General," snapped Mr. Brackin. For the moment Mr. Nickle went a copper color.

Chicago's Craze for Liquid.

Mr. Brackin then cut into statistics himself. He said that if he could get 10,000 cases of whiskey into Chicago—and Chicago, he suggested, could handle that amount, in spite of its decided preference for Ontario water—he could make a million dollars. He also said that in 20 minutes' time he could take the Attorney-General into downtown Toronto and buy liquor at \$7.50 a bottle, which afterward would be found to be worth 25 cents.

Shortly before dawn Mr. Brackin asked the Premier if he had seen daylight. "If you have," said he, "and in ample time see fit to introduce a measure substantially akin to the principles set forth in my amendment. I will support you. More, I will go out and win a riding for you at the next election."

"Ha, ha!" said some one. "The catch!"

But the Premier refused to nibble even.

Shifts the Attack.

Repulsed, Mr. Brackin shifted his fire to the Left, and engaged the defenses of Mark Vaughan, Weland, Conservative, who an hour earlier, had raided the former amendment to the extent of characterizing it as one that "could not possibly achieve real Government control." Mr. Brackin's guns awakened Mr. Vaughan out of a sound sleep.

Mr. Vaughan looked appealingly at Premier Ferguson, twiddling with his watch chain.

"Don't shriek for help from father," thundered Mr. Brackin.

Mr. Vaughan threw out a last appeal. But Premier Ferguson sat unmoved, granite-like; the Gibraltar of the Government. Once again, he "wasn't having any."

And so the day dawned.

CURIOUS SITUATION REVEALED BY VOTE ON 'CONTROL' ISSUE

Members From 'Wet' Con-
stituencies Line Up Against
Proposal

ANALYSIS OF RIDINGS

Analysis of the Legislature vote on the Brackin control proposal shows that of the ten members who voted for it, nine represent constituencies which gave majorities for Government control at the last plebiscite. R. L. Brackin, K.C., Liberal, West Kent, the mover of the resolution, alone comes from a riding which voted against. West Kent voted for the continuance of the O.T.A. by 166 of a majority.

Some Interesting Voting.

More interesting, perhaps, was the incident of a score of members coming from Government-control ridings voting with the Government against the Brackin Government-control proposal.

Outstanding among them was Dr. Leeming Carr, Minister without portfolio, who has been outspoken for a change in the O.T.A. Although his riding voted by 9,528 for Government control, Dr. Carr supported the Government against the amendment.

W. G. Willson (Conservative, Niagara Falls), whose riding gave 2,000 majority for Government control, also voted against the Brackin amendment, and both these members were derisively applauded by supporters of the Brackin resolution when they cast their votes against it.

Mr. Brackin Is Ironic.

Ironic exclamations from R. L. Brackin, K.C., were thrown across the floor as some of the members from wet ridings cast their votes against the amendment. When A. R. Nesbitt, Toronto Conservative, for instance, arose, Mr. Brackin said: "Oh, you!" During the applause which greeted Dr. Leeming Carr's "dry" vote, Mr. Brackin explained: "Another brand from the burning." And when Mr. Raney voted the same way as Premier Ferguson, Mr. Brackin said: "What an unholy alliance! We now have union Government!"

While these were the few members of whom the House took particular notice when the vote was polled, a score of others similarly situated will be indicated in the fol-

lowing statistics on the plebiscite and indication of how the riding representative cast his ballot.