

Friday, April 2nd

# RANEY IS PREVENTED FROM FILING REPORT ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

## Heated Debate Develops and Speaker Finally Rules Out Motion

### TORY BENCHES EXCITED

An attempt by Hon. W. E. Raney yesterday to file with the Legislature what he termed "a report of the minority of the Public Accounts Committee" precipitated the latest, and, at least, one of the warmest discussions the House has heard this session. In the end, after much wrangling, the Speaker ruled the "report" out of order, and the House again knuckled down to its business of endeavoring to end the session before the day was out.

A. C. Lewis (Conservative, Toronto), Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, objected very strenuously to the House receiving the report, claiming that if it was the alternative report which Mr. Raney had submitted to the committee and had been defeated, it contained references to matters which had not been discussed in committee, and unquestionably was out of order.

#### Opposition Develops.

Col. J. A. Currie supported Mr. Lewis's stand. Mr. Raney, under cross-fire, admitted that, while the report he proposed laying before the House was not the alternative report to which Mr. Lewis referred, it contained the substance of that document. There were several sharp exchanges. W. S. Haney (Conservative, Lambton) wanted to know if Mr. Raney's report had been signed after the majority report of the Public Accounts Committee had been received by the House.

"It's a straight question," said he, "and I want you to be careful how you answer it."

Mr. Raney—Is this an effort at intimidation, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Haney—It's a straight question, and I want it answered.

Mr. Raney—I'll answer it when I get good and ready.

Mr. Haney—That's your usual style.

#### Suggests "Back Door."

M. M. MacBride (Conservative, Brant South) claimed that Mr. Raney was trying to bring his report in through the back door.

The Speaker first ruled the report as a "surprise motion" and that Mr. Raney would need the consent of the House to present it.

Mr. Raney—The substance of the report is—

Cries from the House of "No! No! No!"

Mr. Raney—I'll read it then—

Cries of "No, you won't!" and "Not on your life!"

Mr. Raney proceeded to read.

"Order!" thundered the Conservative benches.

Premier Ferguson, who first had been inclined to accept the report, altered his opinion of it, saying he had thought it a minority report, as Mr. Raney had claimed. "I don't know what's in it," he said. "I don't think I should be placed in an unfair position. I don't think I should override the opinion of the House," he ended, as Mr. Raney looked at him appealingly.