

Wednesday, Feb. 9th.

# Government Control Commission Headed by Former C.N.R. President With McClenaghan and Dr. Manion

Ottawa ex-Member and  
Federal ex-Minister  
Named by Premier Fer-  
guson to Assist in Direct-  
ing New Liquor Policy  
—Announcement Causes  
Sensation

WILL BE CALLED  
EARLY TO DUTY

Day of Hectic Debate in  
Which Government Is  
Under Criticism Is  
Brought to Climax With  
Dramatic Statement of  
Policy Adopted  
—Sketches of Com-  
missioners

(By DOUGLAS R. OLIVER.)

D. B. Hanna, former President and General Manager of the Canadian National Railways, prior to the amalgamation of the systems under Sir Henry Thornton, is Ontario's "Strong Man." To aid him in the administering of Ontario's system of Government control of liquor he will have Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion, Postmaster-General in the last Meighen Ministry, and Stewart McClenaghan, former member for Ottawa West in the Federal House.

An announcement to this effect was made in the Legislature last evening. It came from Premier Ferguson, and it came like a bolt from the blue. In a moment the atmosphere, which had become heavy with the weight of four and a half hours of debate, was electric. Conservative members thumped their desks wildly. Only the Opposition groups sat stony-faced and silent.

## Capper for Hectic Debate.

The Prime Minister had engaged the whole evening session in a caustic—almost vitriolic—reply to criticism of Government policy directed during the afternoon by W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, and Hon. W. E. Raney, Leader of the Progressive group. Mr. Ferguson had provided plenty of amusement by his obvious efforts to "get under the skin" of his Opposition heads. But thrills were lacking, and it seemed as if "Leaders' day in the debate on the Speech from the Throne was to pass out in a fashion that might provide plenty of copy for the newspapers, but little real news. But Mr. Ferguson was saving his big punch for the closing minutes of his hour's argument, and in leading up to it his gesture was, to say the least, dramatic.

## Choosing the "Strong Man."

"To make this law successful," he said, after a brief expression of desire that the public "withhold its judgment until the new legislation has had a chance to vindicate itself," "the Government proposes to put it into the hands of a strong man, and I am glad to say that in this Province there are many strong men who are public-spirited enough and unselfish enough that they are prepared to give some time to the public service and to better conditions. I have not had any difficulty, and could get you half a dozen strong men, but I have got one of the outstanding men of the Dominion of Canada."

Government benches banged, and in between banging Liberal Leader Sinclair was heard, calling: "Name him! Name him, then!"

## The Secret Is Out.

"The Chairman of the Commission," Mr. Ferguson went on, mysteriously, "who, I am sure, will command your endorsement, will be the late President and General Manager of the Canadian National Railways, Mr. D. B. Hanna. He is a man the very mention of whose name to the people of the Province and Dominion will be an assurance that a genuine, honest effort will be made to administer efficiently this law, free from influence or favor on any one's part. And it is some sacrifice, I would like the House to understand, for a man who has occupied that position in the business and public affairs of this Dominion, who today is overwhelmed with business interests of various kinds—who, when he hears of a problem and realizes the need of somebody stepping into the breach, is willing to make the great sacrifice necessary, that he may make some worthwhile contribution to the welfare of this Province." (Cheers and desk-thumping.)

## Mr. Raney Is Curious.

Mr. Raney was instantly on his feet. "Will Mr. Hanna," he asked, "be permitted to choose the subordinates who will carry out the Government control scheme, outside of any influence of party patronage?"

"The man who chose him should be capable of choosing the others," shouted a Government member.

The Prime Minister made no immediate direct reply, but his wink was apparent to at least half the House. "This Government," said he, "has been fairly successful in picking its public servants. I would like to say that men have come into public service at a loss to themselves, financially and otherwise. They are not office seekers, but willing to serve the public."

The uproar which came with his announcement had not yet died out. Mr. Ferguson turned toward Mr. Raney as if to reply to his question, but chortled, and said instead: "I wanted that to sink in. I knew you couldn't swallow it at one gulp."

## "To Those Who Wait."

He paused again. Then continued, slowly and emphatically: "The Chairman will be buttressed by two Commissioners of splendid character, outstanding reputation and ability—one of them from the City of Ottawa, a man who has had a long business career, has had some experience in public life, and has made some sacrifice—Stewart McClenaghan. (More applause.)

"The third Commissioner, I am very glad to inform the House, is a man whose personal integrity, energy and ability have endeared him to every one with whom he has come in contact, and who has played a very active part in the public affairs of the Province. He is sacrificing a splendid medical practice, but he is prepared to do it as a public-spirited citizen. Hon. R. J. Manion of Fort William is the third Commissioner.

## Expects Public Confidence.

"There has never been a more outstanding and capable Commission appointed for any purpose, and it will command to the fullest extent public confidence and goodwill, because their integrity is unquestioned, and their honesty of purpose above suspicion and reproach. They will devote their efforts loyally and patriotically to the public welfare of Ontario. I bespeak for the new Commission and the legislation sympathy and support on the part of all members of the Legislature, and constructive suggestion when the time comes for discussion of the bill."

On the adjournment of the House, Mr. Ferguson amplified his statement to the extent of admitting that the new Commission would be summoned to Toronto almost immediately to confer with the Government regarding the act it will administer.

## News to "Strong Man."

"Business administration to the letter of the law" was the promise made last night by Premier Ferguson's "Strong Man," David B. Hanna, regarding the Government control of liquor in Ontario.