

# PRECEDENTS ARE CITED BY PREMIER FERGUSON ON ADVICE TO OTTAWA

**Offhand Information Is Given on Various Resolutions, Antedating Homuth's, Sent From Provincial House to Dominion Government in Past, in Response to Query From Hon. W. E. Raney**

**\$700,000 RENTAL PAID BY HYDRO**

That the Ontario Legislature's action recently when it passed a resolution favoring a cut in excise duty on liquors, and thus tendered advice to the Dominion Government on a Federal policy, was not unusual, was shown in information given to the House yesterday by Premier Ferguson.

Hon. W. E. Raney, Progressive Leader, had inquired when, if ever, the House "offered the Dominion Government the benefit of its advice on subjects within the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada?"

A complete answer, said Mr. Ferguson, would involve an examination of Provincial records from the time of Confederation. Without attempting that, he could cite resolutions sent from the Provincial House to Ottawa as follows: One by Hon. Oliver Mowat, recommending changes in the Constitution itself; one by Hon. A. S. Hardy, recommending appointment of Senators for a limited period; a resolution against Sir James Whitney, protesting the reciprocity proposal of 1911; a motion from Hon. D. Carmichael, protesting against the removal of soldier patients from Euclid Hall; a recommendation from Peter Heenan for a revision of the Railway Act, to secure passes for Legislature members on all national railways; a recommendation from Major Alex. Lewis that St. Lawrence River navigation facilities be improved, and various other resolutions.

**Advice From Ottawa.**

Mr. Raney also wanted to know if the Federal Parliament had ever offered advice to the Ontario House; if so, when, and on what matters. This, said Mr. Ferguson, would involve a search not only of Provincial but Federal archives. The relation of the Parliament of Canada to the Ontario Legislature differed from that of the Ontario House to the Parliament of Canada, but without a search of Dominion history it could be recalled that the Federal Parliament had on several occasions invoked the power of disallowance, had passed legislation which might be considered properly belonging to the Provincial field, and had undertaken to offer suggestions through the medium of conferences.

Replying to a question by M. A. McCallum (Progressive, South Bruce), Mr. Ferguson gave the information that the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission pays \$700,000 annually to the Province as rental for the use of water powers. Last year the Hydro paid \$725,000 rental for the water powers on the Queenston development, \$204,000 for the water powers on the Ontario Power Company development, \$73,000 for the water powers on the Toronto Power Company development, \$79,798 for the water powers on the Nipigon development, \$8,000 for the water powers on the Severn River development, and \$613 for the development on the Muskoka River.

**Consolidations in Bills.**

A long list of Government bills were introduced for first reading. Most of them were in the nature of consolidations. The Government seeks through their medium to amend the Voters' List Act; the Milk, Cheese and Butter Act; the Judicature Act; the County Judges Act; and to amend the present Dairy Act so as to improve the quality of dairy products.

A measure introduced by Col. Price, having to do with Hospitals for the Insane, permits the Public Trustee in Saskatchewan to act for a lunatic with property in Ontario or vice versa. It extends to Saskatchewan the legislation extended by that Province to Ontario. Manitoba is on the same basis. The measure saves expense for both Provinces, he indicated.

Second reading was given to the following acts: Respecting the Township of North York; respecting the Township of Bertie; respecting the Village of Humberstone; an amendment to the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act; and the Housing Adjustment Act.

At twenty-five minutes to six the House resolved itself into committee to consider a Public Health Act. Could this be gone into without a night session, came a protest from the Liberal benches. "There are a 131 sections," A. Belanger pointed out.

"Mostly consolidation," replied Mr. Ferguson and the bill was passed in 20 minutes. The House then adjourned.

## COMPULSORY VOTING ADVISED BY SINCLAIR TO PURIFY POLITICS

**Liberal Leader Makes Suggestion in Discussion of Raney Contributions Bill**

**MEASURE IS CRITICIZED**

**Premier and Col. Price Doubtful About Value of Progressive Leader's Project**

Hon. W. E. Raney's bill to prohibit political contributions by brewers, distillers, certain corporations and certain persons, and to give publicity to their campaign activities, got second reading in the Legislature yesterday and was sent down for further consideration to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Keen debate featured second-reading proceedings yesterday, with the Progressive Leader quoting Customs Inquiry Commission evidence in support of the bill, and with Attorney-General Price and Premier Ferguson expressing sympathy with the principle of the measure and yet opposing it on the ground that not only would it work hardship to men who, of necessity, require the financial help of friends in election campaigns, but that it would interfere with the "education of public opinion" that honest contributions effected.

**Sinclair Also Opposed.**

Liberal Leader Sinclair also objected to the measure, in present form, inasmuch as it did not include, as it should have included, he claimed, all corporations and all persons. Mr. Sinclair thought that Vancouver evidence on "evils" of campaign contributions, as recited by Mr. Raney, had no bearing on Ontario conditions. He also injected into the debate a new note when he advocated compulsory voting as the only solution to the problem with which the Progressive Leader was endeavoring to deal.

**Cites Sworn Evidence.**

Mr. Raney surprised the House with the announcement that he

would offer no argument of his own in support of the measure, but would content himself with reading sworn evidence from the proceedings of the Customs inquiry at Ottawa, and from the proceedings of the Commission that carried its investigations more recently into British Columbia.

"What I will read to this House," he declared, "will convey a more accurate picture than anything I might tell you."

"No, no," said Premier Ferguson.

"As far as I'm concerned," said Mr. Raney, "this is no question for partisan footing." He proceeded to quote the following testimony given by Mr. Nash on June 11 last before the Customs Inquiry Committee, in reply to questions by Hon. R. B. Bennett: "Hiram Walker & Sons, Limited, in the year 1924-25, in an account in their books called 'Protecting Trademarks,' were charged with items aggregating \$62,900; in the year 1925 the same company, in an account in their books under the caption 'Profit and Loss,' are charged with \$79,137.50; Gooderham & Worts, in 1924-25, in an account, 'Sales Promotion,' are charged with \$69,100; J. E. Seagram & Sons, Limited, nothing; St. Hyacinthe Distillery Company, in an account in their books called 'Reserve for Contingencies,' are charged with \$65,000.

Mr. Raney also quoted Mr. Nash as saying the same day: "On a visit to Hiram Walker & Sons, Limited, I saw Mr. Walker, and I asked Mr. Walker if he had made a contribution to campaign funds, and he said: 'Yes, to both parties.' That was his exact answer."

**Vancouver Revelations.**

From the inquiry in Ontario Mr. Raney switched to the Vancouver investigation last December, reading considerable evidence from records to show, as he maintained, the evidence of political contributions from the "whiskey business," and reciting extensive editorial comment from The Vancouver Province, which he understood to be an independent organ, and not a prohibition organ. The whole recital was a condemnation by the newspaper mentioned of the "rotten" conditions alleged to exist in British Columbia in the matter of campaign funds from brewing interests, and an appeal to the Parliament of that Province of: "What is the Legislature going to do about the situation?"

"And that," said Mr. Raney, emphatically, "is the question I put to this Legislature."

There would be no attempt on his part, he said, to inquire into past relationships in Ontario between breweries and Governments. There had always been from the party out of power charges that the party in power was more or less in league with the liquor interests.

"I hesitate to go into this situation," he said. "That would be getting too close—"

"Ha! ha!" crowed the Government benches.

"To both political parties," smiled Mr. Raney.

**Need of Precautions.**

Ontario, he stated, was about to embark on a scheme of Government control of the liquor traffic. "That," he continued, "will put this Legislature in very close touch with one of the greatest financial businesses in the world. If this business is as it has been depicted, then this Legislature should take steps to avoid anything that might cause things to happen to this Government that have happened to Governments elsewhere in the Dominion."