

**Premier Is Sarcastic.**

"I would suggest," giped Mr. Ferguson, "that this is government by the Tory ward associations of Toronto. The Prime Minister discusses questions with them before he does so in the House. If questions are to get this sort of treatment I will refuse to ask any more questions of the Government at all."

"Ha! Ha!" laughed the Conservatives. "I merely wanted this information," said Mr. Sinclair, "in connection with my speech on the Budget debate."

"I'm sure," volunteered the Premier, "that had my honorable friend said that that was the reason for his question the information would have been forthcoming."

Just before the Speaker promised a ruling on the various points raised Mr. Ferguson took time to point out that he had never heard of the questions in dispute until they had been mentioned before the House. "I just wish to make it clear," he added, "that I have not consulted with the Speaker on these matters, as my honorable friends in the Opposition seemingly think."

**LIQUOR-CONTROL BILL  
READY FOR HATCHING,  
PREMIER ANNOUNCES**

**In Such State of Incubation  
He Hopes Shell Will Break  
in a Few Days**

**CAREFULLY PREPARED**

**Liberal Leader Attacks Ferguson for Speeches Outside Legislature**

Premier Ferguson told the Legislature yesterday that the Government-control bill was in "such a state of incubation" that he hoped "the shell will break in a few days."

**Early Appearance Forecast.**

The early appearance of the measure was forecast by the Prime Minister in reply to caustic criticism from Liberal Leader William E. N. Sinclair, who alleged that Mr. Ferguson, in informing a recent smoker-concert staged by "Tory ward associations" that the bill might be well termed the Liquor-Control Act, and that it was the greatest achievement this or any other Legislature had produced, had taken "Tory Toronto" into his confidence in respect to the bill before advising the Legislature.

"Is, then, this legislation in such a completed state," asked Mr. Sinclair, "that from now on no further suggestions will be required from the House?"

The Prime Minister was immediately on his feet, stating that he had said nothing at the smoker-concert that he had not already said to the House and to the public generally.

**Principle Alone Discussed.**

His remarks had been confined solely to the principle of the bill, and to the conviction—which he still had—that the combined wisdom of the Legislature would produce "the greatest piece of legislation it had ever produced." The Government, he said, had been very careful in devising the measure, and he was satisfied it would win the support of the great mass of the people of the Province.

"I haven't gone out of the way in discussing this bill anywhere," said he. "And I believe when it comes down that it will have the support of my honorable friends across from me. It is in such a state of incubation that I hope the shell will break in a few days."

**Letters Tampered With,  
Charges Hon. Mr. Lyons  
Against His Opponents**

**Former Minister Tells  
Legislature That Private  
and Departmental Correspondence  
Opened and Some of Contents  
Removed**

**SLASHING ATTACK  
BY MR. BELANGER**

**Liberal Member Declares  
Road-Building Staffs  
Were Mobilized by Conservatives  
in September Election — Lyons Says  
He Saw Campaign Fund  
Cheques**

The resignation of Hon. James Lyons from the portfolio of Minister of Lands and Forests just a year ago yesterday, and the subsequent investigation into his affairs before the Committee on Public Accounts, were echoed in startling fashion in the Legislature last night.

For two hours in the afternoon Mr. Lyons had spoken in the Budget debate. He continued after the dinner-hour, completing a detailed sketch of the Province's business. Then, concluding his address, he told the House he was pleased to speak on this particular day, "for," said he, "it is the anniversary of my resignation as Minister of Lands and Forests."

**Not Sorry, He Says.**

He paused and surveyed the House. Then he continued in emphatic tones: "And I am not sorry that it happened. For it stopped once and for all the petty sniping of a disgruntled Opposition—(Government desks banged applause for his words)—and it placed the Ferguson Government in a position to say," he went on, "that, regardless of where the sniping came from, the affairs of the Province are carried on above suspicion."

"You remember the investigation before the Public Accounts Committee. I feel that that investigation made a bigger and better man out of me—and a bigger and cuter monkey out of the honorable member who instigated it."

"Shame! Shame!" cried Progressive members.

**Says Detectives Employed.**

"There was no stone left unturned to get the facts," Mr. Lyons ignored the cries. "Several of the members in the Opposition here and at Ottawa did everything to get something on your humble servant. So-called detectives were sent into Sault Ste. Marie to secure evidence to use on your humble servant. The Opposition wrote letters to people in Sault Ste. Marie craving information to use against me."

"As I am a member of the Opposition," Liberal Leader William E. N. Sinclair protested, "I ask the honorable member to name the man who wrote such letters."

"If I were to name him it would come close to the heart of the Liberal Leader," retorted Mr. Lyons.

"I ask you to name him," Mr. Sinclair pressed.

"I could not only name him, but I have some of the letters in my possession," returned Mr. Lyons.

"Mr. Speaker," Mr. Sinclair protested. "I ask the member as an honorable man to name him or say that I am not the man. He is trying to create an impression."

**Courteous Treatment From Sinclair.**

"I don't infer the Leader of the Liberal party wrote any letter," Mr. Lyons smiled in reply, "and I will say I received the most courteous treatment from the Leader of the Liberal party during the investigation."

Mr. Lyons paused again. Then he went on: "As a final attempt to secure information his Majesty's mail, private and confidential, not only my private mail, but correspondence to me in connection with the Department of Lands and Forests, was opened on several occasions and some of the contents removed. If a petty political ambition will go to that extent, it is time we had a house-cleaning."

Mr. Sinclair—Did you complain to Ottawa?

Mr. Lyons—I certainly did, but I did not get the name of the culprit. But I was satisfied that it was between two points that the mail was tampered with.

"However," he concluded, "I just wanted to say that this is the anniversary of my resignation."

Then he touched on the liquor question, noting that he represented Sault Ste. Marie, which was a temperance riding. In 1919, said he, Sir William Hearst had been beaten in that riding "by funds contributed by brewers and distillers."

**Campaign Cheques.**

He declared that he had seen the signed cheques contributing to the campaign funds of "the honorable member who defeated Sir William Hearst," to the funds of "the honorable member who was adopted into the fold of the Drury Government."

**Belanger Is Cutting.**

Mr. Lyons, however, was not the only member who during the day's debate put the House "on edge." Aurelien Belanger, Liberal member for Russell, was clear-cut and coldly deliberate in his criticism of the Government's policy of appropriating yearly \$5,000,000 for development in Northern and Northwestern Ontario. Mr. Belanger said that the Legislature's action in voting that amount of money without requiring from the Government a single estimate as to how the money was to be expended constituted a "vicious principle."

"The Government has never taken the House into its confidence on this matter," said Mr. Belanger. "What assurance have we that some of it is not used for election purposes or for purposes of bribery? In fact, I do know that in the last three elections—the two Federal elections and

the Provincial election—that this money may have been used for that very purpose."

**Premier Is Accused.**

Mr. Belanger contended that Premier Ferguson and other Ministers had travelled the North Country in recent elections, and always their cry to the people had been something of this sort: "You need roads in this or that locality. You can't expect us to provide the money to meet your need of roads unless you give us your votes."