

# Vote Forced by Raney On Government Powers Over Board Employees

**Progressive Leader Demands That Lieutenant-Governor - in - Council Have Nothing to Do With Hanna Appointments, But Amendment Is Defeated**

## FRAYED TEMPERS AMONG LEADERS

**Several Flare-Ups Occur in Committee Stage of Liquor Bill Debate — Minor Revisions Accepted by Cabinet**

The new Government-control bill made considerable progress in the committee stage of the Legislature yesterday, and at a few minutes after 12 o'clock this (Thursday) morning, when the House adjourned, 99 of its 144 clauses had been approved—with some minor amendments.

Its progress through its debative channels was marked by one division of the committee—forced by Mr. Raney, in seeking to amend one section of the act so that the Liquor Board would have the sole power to appoint its own employees, and thereby avoid the possibility of partisanship tactics—which resulted in a lop-sided victory for the Government. Another, providing for varying hours of sale of liquor, was added to the act.

### Protests Against Patronage.

The early stages of the discussion were featured by spirited reiteration by Mr. Raney of his protest against the "patronage influence," which, he said, would be wielded against the Liquor Commission by the Prime Minister, Government, and Conservative members of the Legislature, and would result in D. B. Hanna, Chairman of the Commission, being turned from a "strong man" into a "hired man."

### Battle Among Leaders.

There were several displays of "frayed tempers" on the part of the Leaders which served to enliven the otherwise "dragging" day. The Prime Minister charged Mr. Raney with being an "obstructionist," bent on "discouraging the Liquor Commission" and "destroying the people's confidence in the new law." For the second time this week Mr. Raney resented the Government's "aloofness" to his suggestions and threatened to "go home."

And Mr. Sinclair dubbed a lot of the clauses of the act "fool clauses," and on being chided by the Premier with being "disagreeable," replied, heatedly, that if he had wanted to be disagreeable he would have been disagreeable "long ago."

"For," he said, amid silence, "I have had plenty of provocation."

### Left to the Board.

The House went into committee on the bill at about 4.30 in the afternoon, and began debating the subsection relative to the hours during which the "control" stores are to be kept open. The bill left this to the board. Mr. Raney pressed for a definition of the hours from the Gov-

ernment, but the Premier remained adamant. He felt that this was one of the matters which would be better if left until the Commission saw how things worked out. Perhaps next year, he said, the House might be in a better position to express itself in this respect.

In replying to Mr. Raney, the Premier moved the members to laughter more than once when he recounted, in giving his views on the best hours for the sale of liquor, some experiences he had had in British Columbia and in London, England. He confessed himself an ardent admirer of the scheme in vogue in London, where liquor was not sold before 12 o'clock noon.

"If the theory be promotion of the sale of liquor, then there will be long hours," commented the Progressive Leader. "If the theory be restriction—the stamping out of the bootlegger—then the policy will be different."

Mr. Ferguson replied that the aim of the legislation was a minimum of freedom and a maximum of restriction.

### "Subject to This Act."

Opposition members pressed for information as to the possible hours the stores might be in operation. Premier Ferguson gave no definite reply. On the suggestion that some stores might be kept open longer than others, the section in this matter was clarified by a change in phraseology to read that a power of the board should be "prescribing, subject to this act, the days and hours at which Government liquor stores, or any of them, shall be kept open."

When the committee came to the section authorizing the issue and distribution of price-lists of liquor for sale in the stores, Mr. Raney protested that this was so wide that it allowed whiskey men to advertise their wares by sending out price-lists. Premier Ferguson objected that this criticism was quibbling on a point that the Government could not refuse the public the information of the price of liquors, but that the Government maintained that there should be no public advertising, and would live up to its pledge.

### Board to Decide.

When consideration centred on the subsection empowering the board to prescribe the kinds and quantities which may be purchased under permits, Mr. Raney asked the Premier to tell just what his views were in this matter, to make known his cogitations as to just how much liquor a permit-holder could get. The Premier replied that the board would work all this out.

The committee turned to the subsection providing for records of purchase by permit-holders. Mr. Raney thought it would take the Angel Gabriel and five thousand other angels busy keeping track of permit-holders.

Mr. Ferguson retorted: "It's possible to reduce argument to a point of absurdity. We're not going to adopt the paternal attitude my friend has adopted. We're not going to put spotters on permit-holders' trails."

It was simply provided, said he, that a system of records be established, so that permits could be checked if abuses were reported.

"This tremendous organization will cost a lot of money," said Mr. Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell). "Perhaps you won't make as much as you thought."

"Perhaps not," replied the Premier.

As for permits, the Prime Minister said there was no definite decision as to what the price should be.

### Clause Objected To.

"This is the patronage section of the bill," declared Liberal Leader Sinclair, when the committee came to the section empowering the board, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, to appoint employees. This was the section objected to by Mr. Sinclair and others during the second reading of the bill. The argument that it did not keep appointments out of politics was reiterated. Mr. Ferguson replied, as he had on second reading, that the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council was required because expenditures were involved; that it was a well-established practice.

The Workmen's Compensation Board, an independent body, he noted, had to submit statements to be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, said he, had the right to review statements of appointments and expenditures of the University of Toronto.

"Aren't you the boss of the university?" asked Mr. Sinclair.

"Yes," replied the Premier. "But I show you how easy I am. Just as I am in this House I never interfere as long as things run right." "You mean, run the right way?" retorted the Liberal Leader.

The Premier thought that in the moment remaining before the dinner hour he might touch on the question of suggested patronage. Appointments of officers and servants in connection with the O.T.A. were subject to approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, said he, the provision being similar to that objected to in the control bill.

"So even my honorable friend who sits over there," he nodded toward Mr. Raney, "has not been free from doing this thing for years under the O.T.A."

"Let's go to dinner," replied Mr. Raney, smiling.

"I'm just giving you an appetizer, a legislative cocktail," retorted the Premier. He repeated his argument, and the committee adjourned for the dinner hour.

### Criticism From Mr. Raney.

When the House resumed at 8 o'clock Mr. Raney reiterated his objection to the idea of the Control Board being started out in its career under a blanket of "partisanship." He pictured Mr. Hanna as the "hired man" not only of the Prime Minister and the Government but of every Conservative member of the Legislature. The Government, he said, has not only seen fit to bring the question of liquor into party politics, but was now proposing to make its appointments on the Control Board "political appointments."

Mr. Raney said he had been informed that in Toronto the whole slate of appointments under the new act was complete. He had not a doubt, he said, that Conservative members of the Legislature would have the say in settling appointments in their different ridings. The people at election time, he said, had taken the Premier at his word that they would be given a business administration. He submitted that a "business administration" by the board would be out of the question with dispensers of patronage eternally interfering.

Mr. Ferguson asked Mr. Raney if it was not his claim that during his term of office as Attorney-General he had made no political appointments.

"Quite so," said Mr. Raney.

"Your Government had the power by Order-in-Council to make appointments under the O.T.A.," Mr. Ferguson said.

Mr. Raney agreed. "But you didn't make them?" said the Premier. "No," said Mr. Raney. "Well," said Mr. Ferguson, "why can't you give