

Sinclair paused, Premier asked if the Liberal Leader would like to hear from him now.

Surprise, Says Premier.

Mr. Sinclair sat down. The Premier declared "This comes entirely as a surprise to me. I have never heard of it before, nor has any member of the Government. The Government will see to it that all the methods at its disposal will be used to purge the situation of any corrupt or improper practice, and all the machinery of the law will be put in motion to reveal the truth in this matter. I will be glad to confer with my honorable friend and arrange the fullest investigation, and that promptly. I am sure that every member of this House is grateful to the honorable member for bringing this serious matter to the attention of the House, and will cooperate with him in the fullest inquiry."

"I thank the Prime Minister for his assurance," replied Mr. Sinclair. "It is important that this be dealt with properly and thoroughly."

News to Mr. Birkett.

Thomas M. Birkett, M.P.P., Ottawa South, issued a statement prior to the evening session of the House, pointing out that the ballot incident was unknown to him up to the time Mr. Sinclair "sprang it" in his speech.

"It is absolutely the first I have heard of anything like that," he told the press. "There has been no word of it from either organization, Liberal or Conservative. I want to help in any way possible to bring about the most thorough investigation."

The Amendment

The text of the amendment to the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, as sponsored yesterday by William E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, and seconded by Alex. P. Mewhinney, North Bruce, is as follows:

"That all the words in the motion after the first word 'that' be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"This House regrets the failure of the Government to announce in the Speech from the Throne that legislation will be introduced at this session authorizing an agreement between the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council of Ontario and the Governor-in-Council of Canada, under Section 2 of 17 Geo. V., Cap. 35, Canada, the Old Age Pensions Act, 1927."

Sinclair on Offensive Outpoints Government In Debate of Leaders

Furnishes Sensation of Day in Ballot Allegations, Moves Amendment Favoring Old-Age Pensions, and Slashes Right and Left at Administration Record

DOESN'T FORGET THE 'STRONG MAN'

Progressive Leader Makes Good Impression, and Ferguson Reply Falls Short of Usual Effectiveness—Day of Surprises in House

Liberal Leader William E. N. Sinclair stole Premier Ferguson's thunder in the Ontario Legislature yesterday. Not only was he the "big noise" in the debate opening, but the "big stick" as well.

Not content with springing his "wandering ballots" sensation, Mr. Sinclair terminated the best speech the House has ever heard him make with an amendment to the Address which, in effect, will place the members on record as to whether or not the Government has been guilty of neglect in its failure to legislate this session for old-age pensions.

Criticism All Along.

All along the way, Mr. Sinclair clubbed the Ferguson Administration, and from every conceivable angle. Not only did he carry his warfare to Mr. Ferguson and various departmental activities of his Government, but to subordinates just without the Queen's Park confines. In this connection, "Strong Man" Hanna, Chairman of the Liquor Control Board, who, he charged, was paid \$20,000 a year to "rubber-stamp" appointments made by patronage committees, felt the full weight of his sarcasm.

Mr. Sinclair varied his criticism. It ranged from "bowling alleys" in the Administration Building to an appeal to the Prime Minister to keep politics out of the constitutional issue with respect to power rights. At times it was feathery in substance, but fun-provoking. Other times it was heavy, compelling serious consideration. But at all times it was, to say the least, exasperating, if not galling, to the Government, and, although Premier Ferguson occupied most of the evening sitting in "shooting" effective counter-punches, he failed to roll up sufficient points to earn him a verdict.

FORCES INQUIRY



WILLIAM E. N. SINCLAIR, K.C.

Liberal Leader, whose sensational revelation in the Legislature yesterday of the finding of ballot papers on an Ottawa street will bring an investigation.

Progressive Leader Speaks.

In between the Liberal Leader and the Government Leader came John G. Lethbridge, the new Progressive pilot, making his maiden debate speech, arguing the old question of Ferguson v. Drury, directing further fire against the Liquor Control Act administration, which, he alleged, was "efficient" only in the sense of selling liquor and not controlling.

Mr. Lethbridge stressed the point that the whole act was a sales promotion piece of business and that the Government, as well as the brewers and distillers who threw their whole weight behind it before the election, realized it when they brought it in. Mr. Lethbridge claimed that the Legislature should fix the amount of liquor purchasable by permit, and that "Strong Man" Hanna should not have authority to let a single individual buy, as proved, 1,000 bottles in a month's time.

In his effort to offset the effect of the Opposition argument, Mr. Ferguson painted in glowing terms practically every line of Government achievement during the year closed. He forecast the appointment of a supervisor of the ordinary public hospitals in the Province; the addition of two new cars to the Educational Department's system of travelling schools for the North. He defended the Liquor Control Act administration, lengthily and warmly, but he maintained a stout silence on the "bottle shortage" cry which has been raised by the press of late, and which was echoed in the House yesterday earlier in the debate. His sarcasm was not lacking either, and he foresaw that Messrs. Sinclair and Lethbridge, "like political Siamese twins," would be under one roof, sooner or later, despite all their argument to the contrary.