

Thursday, Feb. 23rd

FERGUSON IS FLEEING FROM WRATH TO COME, THINKS U.F.O. MEMBER

Farquhar Oliver Charges Threefold Failure of Liquor Law and Finds Reason for Premier's Announced Retirement

ATTORNEY-GENERAL WILL SPEAK TODAY

Charging that the Liquor Control Act had failed in its threefold purpose, to make a more temperate people, to banish the bottlegger, and to keep out of politics, Farquhar Oliver, U.F.O. member for South Grey, told the House yesterday that when Premier Ferguson, in a press interview last summer, had forecast his retirement from public life at the close of the present Legislature he must have had one eye cocked with some misgivings on his liquor law. "Fleeing from the wrath to come," was the picture Mr. Oliver painted for the Government Leader.

The young U.F.O. musketeer joined with William Newman, Liberal member for North Victoria, yesterday in advancing the debate a couple of more notches toward the big hour in the House. That hour strikes this afternoon, when Attorney-General William H. Price will give his "long-brewed" speech in defense of the administration and enforcement of act which Messrs. Newman and Oliver criticized yesterday, and which, since the debate opened, has been made the general target of the Opposition marksmen.

Single-Shot Answer.

The fact that speakers on the Government side of the House have kept rather tight-lipped to date on the "wet" question is taken to indicate that the Attorney-General has up his sleeve the single-shot answer with which the Government intends, if possible, to down the Opposition rush. Incidentally, Col. Price will tell just how much money was spent in liquor in Ontario since the "control" law went into force, and will supply a grist of other statistics dealing with "Strong Man" Hanna's \$20,000-a-year job at University Avenue and Dundas Street.

Might Double Revenue.

Mr. Newman painted a bright picture of the "highlands of Ontario," with their irresistible appeal to tourist traffic, and said that if the Government gave proper attention to this traffic the estimated \$80,000,000 in revenue to the Province of last year would be doubled another season. He urged precautionary measures to safeguard the game fish in Ontario waters from depletion; charged the Government with making a "mistake" last year in increasing the deer season from 15 days to one month; and, while not exactly advocating an increased bounty for wolves, intimated that something might be done in the way of organized "hunts" to cut down the ever-increasing numbers of these deer-slayers. Algonquin Park, he contended, was but a playground for the wolves, and "a mighty good spot" in which to launch a hunt.

Mr. Newman thanked the Government for the "highways" work done in his riding last year, but said that it was so much "waste," in view of the fact that it was practically all repairs, and washed away with the first heavy rain. He suggested several roads as prospective highway routes which he thought would bring increased tourist traffic to the North, and would easily earn, in a short while, the cost of their undertaking.

Supports Policy.

The North Victoria member brought chuckles of delight from the Government benches when he supported the Government's pronounced policy of "up with the gas tax and down with the price of motor markers"; and Hon. William Finlayson's arrangement to transfer families from the unfertile land of Haliburton and North Victoria to the clay belt of the North.

"These families love their old homes," said Mr. Newman. "They intend to go slow at first, but they will go."

Mr. Newman delights in color-pictures, and at this juncture he took the House with him on a word jaunt to the clay belt, which he described as possessing the finest soil he had ever seen. A wonderful country, with wonderful possibilities.

"The mines in Ontario," he pointed out, "are bound to go some day, but that great agricultural land up there will remain as long as the sun shines and water runs."

On the question of liquor law, Mr. Newman said, he had abided by the will of the people as expressed at the last election, and, while a lifelong temperance man, a teetotaler, and a man who superintended a Sunday school and went to church regularly, "and am not ashamed of it," he would do everything in his power to make the new law as good as possible. He admitted that the Liquor Board, "stuck" for a good store official up his way, had written him asking him to get a man, and he had got him—the best man, too, he could select for the job. He had thought it his duty to do so.

"I think, in some respects," said Mr. Newman, "that this new law has done good."

Loud desk-banging from the Government side of the House. "But I know," he went on, "more liquor is being drunk in Haliburton right now than ever under the Ontario Temperance Act."

Mr. Newman quoted statistics to show how brewery and distillery stocks had jumped sky-high since the act went into force. This, he said, was a sign that "steam was up" and that liquor was pouring out into Ontario at a faster rate than ever before.

No Flask on Lindbergh's Hip.

Mr. Newman had great faith in the youth of the present day. He thought it could follow no better guiding star than young Lindbergh, who flew the ocean with a few sandwiches, and "with no flask on his hip," and who, when he landed in France, asked for "no wines of France," but a bath and a bottle of milk.

"Milk, mind you," stressed the speaker, "instead of that dirty, nauseating thing we are now having thrown up to us—beer by the glass."

F. R. Oliver (U.F.O., South Grey) told the House of a visit to the North Country, and made particular mention of the Algoma District. He had noticed, he said, many "poverty-poor farms." Farmers who had sold produce to lumber camps had, with a shifting of the lumber business, lost their markets. Many were "just eking out an existence," and Mr. Oliver hoped that the Government would make some attempt to aid them by moving them to better lands. On the other hand, he had been impressed with the many good agricultural districts in the Northland.

Then he brought to the attention of the House the suggestion that there should be some system whereby urban centres would contribute some financial balm to the farmers whose sheep were killed by dogs. It was, he said, the township that pays. Yet dogs that slaughtered the flocks were owned in urban centres. "This should be looked into," he told the House.

Then he came to his fondest subject, that of agriculture. He foresaw the future of this industry not as H. S. Colliver did, in producing more hens and cows, but in developing markets.

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Bonne Entente Spirit Suggests New Bridge

A deputation from the Town of Hawkesbury waited on Premier G. Howard Ferguson yesterday, asking his support to a proposal to erect a bridge over the Ottawa River between Hawkesbury and Grenville on the Quebec side.

The proposal is that the two Provinces should share jointly in the project. Argument was that the "bonne entente" spirit now existing between Ontario and Quebec would be more solidly cemented by such an undertaking.

The Prime Minister promised the deputation consideration of their appeal.