

## LIQUOR SALE QUERY STARTS LIVELY TILT BETWEEN LEADERS

### Premier Says Government Not Obligated to Figure Out Business Dates

## DAY QUIET OTHERWISE

Government replies to Opposition questions during the short sitting of the Legislature yesterday afternoon precipitated a brief "flare-up" between Premier Ferguson and Liberal Leader Sinclair. And during the exchange of words Mr. Ferguson made one thing plain—that "the Government was not bound to make mathematical computations for any member of the Opposition."

Mr. Sinclair took objection to Attorney General Price's answer, "On all calendar days with the exception of Sundays and official holidays," to the question: "What was the total number of days of operation of liquor stores up to Oct. 31, 1927?"

To obtain speaking "leeway" Mr. Sinclair moved the adjournment of the House. "It is obvious that what we want is the exact number of days," he said. "That is not an answer. The Government knows what I want and it evades the question." He declared that if the Government could not answer a plain question the Opposition might just as well stop asking questions. "Surely the Government does not want the people to get the impression that it does not want to answer questions."

### Figure It Out, Says Price.

Mr. Price suggested that it would be very easy for the Liberal Leader to figure out the answer for himself. "No one expected that you wanted the Liquor Board to set clerks to work computing the number of days."

Mr. Sinclair appealed to the Speaker, submitting that the question had not been answered, and then Mr. Ferguson entered the debate, declaring that the Government was not required to do simple mathematical questions for members of the Opposition. "My honorable friend might just as well ask how many days there have been this year since Jan. 1. He is capable of figuring it out, and we will be glad to give him the dates on which the various stores were opened."

Mr. Sinclair was satisfied, and the question was laid over.

### Dr. Ryan's Appointment.

Several questions were asked regarding the appointment of Dr. Edward Ryan to the position of Director of Provincial Mental Hospitals, and, answering for Hon. Lincoln Goldie, who was not in the House, Premier Ferguson explained that Dr. Ryan was still Superintendent of Rockwood Hospital, Kingston, for which he received a salary of \$5,400. Mr. Ferguson said that his appointment to Provincial Director was intended to be permanent, but that at present he was working only part time on a survey, for which he was paid an allowance of \$2,100.

Answering questions regarding construction of Provincial highways during the year Hon. George Henry said that the cost of maintenance during 1927 had been \$1,644,066, and the cost per mile had been \$760.96 for gravel roads, \$860 for macadam, \$738.82 for bituminous paving, \$407.44 for asphalt and \$536.99 for concrete. He said that

237.8 miles of highways had been laid during the year, and the cost per mile had been \$24,050 for cement concrete, \$30,040 for asphalt, \$28,130 for mixed macadam, \$18,420 for bituminous paving, and \$15,840 for macadam.

### Timber Agent's Powers.

T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin) was told by Hon. William Finlayson that the Crown Timber Agent in Northern Ontario had not the power to say how much land settlers might clear each year that he had not the right to stop settlers from clearing land, but that he did have the right to refuse a clearance for pulpwood cut in the clearing of land provided the regulations were being violated.

Attorney-General Price informed Edward Proulx (Lib., Russell) that John McCormack, defeated candidate in Dundas County at the last general election, had been appointed Police Magistrate for Dundas at a salary of \$1,500. His appointment limited him to his Magisterial duties, Mr. Price said, and before his appointment he had been a commercial traveller.

### Amending Public Lands Act.

Hon. William Finlayson introduced a bill to amend the Public Lands Act, which will give the Surveyor-General rights as a Deputy Minister. Another bill presented by Premier Ferguson is designed to amend the Boys' Welfare Home and School Act so that the amounts to be paid by the parents and the municipality might be determined.

Several bills were given second reading, among them one of Hon. Charles McCrea providing an amendment to the Assessment Act where it affected properties in Northern Ontario on which the surface rights were severed from the mineral rights.

## CALL FOR COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

### Liberal Leader Sinclair Makes Request for Wednesday

## PREMIER TAKES A NOTE

Liberal Leader William E. N. Sinclair asked Premier Ferguson yesterday to authorize the calling of the Public Accounts Committee for Wednesday next.

"I'm not in a position today," said the Prime Minister, "to say whether it will be called for that day or not."

"Last session," giped Mr. Sinclair, "I was severely reprimanded for not calling your attention to the committee early."

### "Not at Fault."

"I'll take a note of your request," smiled Mr. Ferguson. "I'll at least say you're not at fault this time."

A year ago the Public Accounts Committee was not summoned until the day before the House prorogued. This situation was created by a deadlock between Mr. Sinclair and the Government over the question of whose duty it was to call the resolution the former had placed on the order paper for the call of the committee. When the committee finally got together there was more argument, out of which there was eventually reached the decision that Mr. Sinclair could investigate the 1926 public accounts, if he desired, along with the 1927 accounts, at this, the 1928 session.

### Unofficial View.

Mr. Sinclair has given no inkling, to date, of a 1926 inquiry, but unofficial sources in Queen's Park state he will drop it for alleged more recent transactions upon which his eye is said to have fastened.

## NORTH BAY'S MAYOR DENIES STATEMENTS OF LIBERAL'S FRIEND

### Police Court Cases Fifty Per Cent. Lower Than Under O.T.A., He Says

## TELEGRAM TO FERGUSON

Who is the travelling man friend who told P. W. Pierson, Liberal member for North York, that in the last three months he saw more drunkenness and heard more bar-room language in North Bay than he saw or heard in years under the Ontario Temperance Act?

E. L. Banner, North Bay's Major, would be pleased to hear from the gentleman. He says so in a telegram directed to Premier Ferguson, and which the Prime Minister read to the Legislature, yesterday, before the orders of the day were called.

The telegram reads as follows: "Referring to speech of Mr. Pierson, member for North York, re drunkenness in North Bay—statements as to conditions here are false and absolutely without foundation. Police records for last three months show Police Court cases 50 to 60 per cent. lower than under Ontario Temperance Act. If Mr. Pierson's travelling friend knows of places in this city where drunkenness and bad language are so evident, I will be pleased to hear from him."

Mr. Banner's wire-refutation of the story as told to the North York member, and repeated by him in the House, in the debate, last Wednesday, moved the Conservative benches to loud banging yesterday.

## U.F.O. RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED PREMIER

### Board of Governors for O.A.C., Rural Hydro Ex- tension Requested

## "WORLD GOOD-WILL DAY"

Resolutions which were passed at the last U.F.O. convention in Toronto were presented to Premier Ferguson yesterday by a deputation from the organization comprising Messrs. Harold Currie, W. Good and Buchanan.

That the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, be placed under a Board of Governors with powers similar to the Governors of the University of Toronto; that rural Hydro service be extended as speedily and cheaply as possible; that the Minister of Education find a place for the study of co-operative marketing on the rural school curriculum; that May 18 be set aside each year by the Department of Education as "World Good-will Day" in the schools; that it be made compulsory to grade all eggs sold commercially; that the present deer season of 30 days be opposed, and that the Province endorse the Federal Government's stand with regard to juvenile immigration, were among the resolutions to which the Prime Minister promised his consideration.