

Saturday. February. 23rd

# OLD LUMBER CAMPS WILL BE CONVERTED INTO HUNTING LODGES

**Operation Comes Under  
New Forests Act—Ob-  
jectionable Clause Is  
Amended by Finlayson  
After Criticism by Lib-  
eral Leader Sinclair**

## NEW 'STRONG MAN' TO BE APPOINTED

From Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, there came the announcement yesterday that many of Ontario's old lumber camps, now in Government possession, are to be converted into hunting lodges and operated under the new Provincial Forests Act. It is the Government's intention to make these lodges available to shooting parties, at certain fixed rentals, and through their use to encourage tourist camping on an extensive scale.

Mr. Finlayson's announcement was made to the Legislature when Liberal Leader W. E. N. Sinclair demanded further explanation of the clause in the new act which provides the Government with authority to use the forests for shooting, fishing, camping, recreational and instructional purposes not inconsistent with the growth of timber.

### Not in Hotel Business.

Mr. Finlayson, while admitting that the Government would rebuild the lumber camps, again denied emphatically that there was any intention of going into the hotel business or of seeking tourist revenue that otherwise would fall into the hands of operators of private camps and lodging places. To preclude, however, the possibility of such a venture, he amended the objectionable clause to the satisfaction of Mr. Sinclair.

The bill passed committee of the House, but not before Mr. Sinclair had also drawn from Mr. Finlayson the statement that the Government was now considering the appointment of the Provincial forest officer provided for in the legislation, and that he would be selected as soon as possible.

Detailing the various duties of this new official, as stipulated by the act, Mr. Sinclair observed that he would have to be another "Strong Man—a Strong Man with capital letters all the way through." Mr. Finlayson admitted that the post was a very important one, and that every care would be exercised in choosing an official who would properly administer the many duties allotted to him.

### Extension of Permits.

The Minister of Lands and Forests also explained that under the new act the Government practice of issuing permits for tourist travellers on Crown lands would be extended, as a further means of protecting the timber wealth of the Province. "This is not a political issue," he said, when Opposition members demurred at the idea. "The welfare of our forests is far more important than the life of any political party."

Debate on the principles of Mr. Finlayson's other forestry bill, "The Pulpwood Supply Act," will be continued on Monday with Liberal Leader Sinclair leading off.