

Tuesday - February - 26th.

"What's the use, when you don't know what you're talking about?" Mr. Finlayson retorted.

"I have only a common understanding, not one of the magnitude of the Minister of Lands and Forests," Mr. Sinclair shot back, sarcastically.

"I've had a hopeful feeling," Mr. Finlayson went on, "that this matter was out of party politics."

"Glad to Forget 1920."

"You are mighty glad to forget 1920," Mr. Sinclair interjected.

"I wish the department could forget the 25 years of debauchery in the Liberal rule," Mr. Finlayson replied, heatedly.

Then the Speaker reminded Mr. Sinclair that the Government had, during his speech, afforded him "the best of attention," and suggested that he refrain from interrupting the Minister.

But, as Mr. Finlayson went on to say, "we hoped the matter would be treated seriously." Mr. Sinclair wanted to know if the Minister wasn't out of order, in that he was not replying to Mr. Sinclair's argument, but was "inferring" statements.

"Let me remind you," the Speaker told the Liberal Leader "that I extended you the greatest courtesy and latitude only to be twitted by you that I didn't know enough to call you to order. The Minister didn't go any farther afield than you."

Mr. Finlayson said he was particularly addressing his remarks about "party politics" to Mr. Sinclair because he was the only one who didn't treat the pulp situation seriously.

Objects to "Inferences."

Again Mr. Sinclair objected to "inferences," and declared that Mr. Finlayson was out of order.

"He's quite in order," he was told, but these words came from Colonel J. A. Currie (Conservative, Toronto-St. Patricks).

Mr. Finlayson went on to tell of how the Government supplied trees to the farmers of the Province, and then to refer to the moving of settlers from Haiburton to New Ontario. He told the House that William Newman (Liberal, North Victoria) knew all about that movement and he "put it up" to Mr. Newman to tell his Liberal Leader "whether that's a failure."

Next he recalled Mr. Sinclair's references to Dean Howe. Why, said he, didn't the Liberal Leader ask Howe concerning the entire forest policy? The Government was willing to accept the Dean's statement on the general situation.

Then he reviewed the work done in cutting down the fire losses in the timber wealth of the Province, and announced that the Government had contracted for 25 new steel towers for fire observation work, which was just a little evidence of how the work was advancing.

"This Real Progress."

Resuming his remarks after the dinner adjournment, Mr. Finlayson emphasized that the department was doing important work in reforestation and tree distribution. He regretted that Mr. Sinclair did not see what he termed to be "this real progress."

"I am also sorry," he continued, "that the Liberal Leader objects to the composition of the Forestry Board."

"I made no complaint about the composition of the board," said Mr. Sinclair. "I merely intimated that it was my opinion that the establishment of the board should have done away with the necessity of such legislation."

"The board has done much for the Province at no cost whatever," said Mr. Finlayson. "The board has considered the bill, and they approve of it. They have said that it is an advanced step in forestry practice. The board has studied brush disposal, selective cutting and other problems in a scientific manner. They have recently looked over the North to find a good location for spruce planting. They even brought back samples of soil, which are being tested at the University of Toronto and the Guelph Agricultural College. I am glad my honorable friend approves of the board."

Hopes for Co-operation.

"If," the Minister said, continuing, "we are not discouraged by too much partisanship, if the issue is not made a political football, we hope to gain the co-operation of public-spirited citizens in our reforestation plans."

Going on, the Minister told of timber sales which had resulted in towns being kept going, and which were of general advantage to Ontario. Mr. Finlayson pictured lumber companies, the sole

support of a series of villages, falling in the doldrums during the past years. Yet, said he, Mr. Sinclair talked of cancelling contracts. When he went on to refer to certain timber limits, the Liberal Leader objected that they were not the ones that had been the basis of his criticism.

A moment later, when Mr. Finlayson referred to the Liberal Leader's speech as a "rehash" and said: "All this matter has been worked up for him this year," Mr. Sinclair protested again, this time demanding that Mr. Finlayson withdraw his statement.

"For," said Mr. Sinclair, "I worked this up myself."

"I am quite prepared to accept the honorable member's statement that he worked it up," said Mr. Finlayson. "It's too bad he made such a poor job of it."

Recognizes Old Contracts.

Again, on the subject of contracts, the Minister emphasized that "the department has to recognize the contracts made by its predecessors."

"Regardless of whether the other fellow keeps his side of the contract," said Mr. Sinclair.

"If the other fellow," Mr. Finlayson replied, "gives cause, we would be justified in cancelling it, but we are not justified in cancelling contracts because hard times intervene."

Then he painted a picture of an activity of his department under the Ferguson Administration which is quite a contrast to the picture painted by Mr. Ferguson himself not so long ago. He told the House that the Backus organization had raised a question as to the extent of timber on its property, and, while they were conducting a cruise the Government was conducting another to ascertain the condition of the limits. Moreover these Backus limits fell in the class which the Government was trying "to nurse along" to better times.

Willing to Help.

"We're willing to do what we can to help them along," said Mr. Finlayson of the timber men generally, "and it

will be a good thing for the Province and business." As for Mr. Sinclair's request that an inquiry be made into the timber wealth of the Province, the Minister declared that the Government had been conducting just such an inquiry for several years. With cruises and air surveys, it was trying to ascertain this wealth, and after six years of such work 60 per cent. of the undertaking was accomplished.

Mr. Finlayson laughed when he recalled Mr. Sinclair's suggestion that a committee conduct an inquiry. Why, said he, the bill provided for statements from all companies, and it gave the organization to Sept. 1 to file these reports. Yet Mr. Sinclair suggested that the committee get all this information in a month.

Only Real Objection.

The Minister declared that the only objection really raised against the bill was one from a paper company representative, who suggested that the reports asked by the department be for a five-year period rather than the ten-year period specified in the bill.

Deplores Partisan Spirit.

In concluding his defense of the bill, Mr. Finlayson declared: "The bill is the result of careful study, and is an effort to deal fairly all around. I have letters from lumbermen stating that they wished something to this effect had been put into operation fifty years ago. I am extremely sorry that any partisan spirit has been injected into this discussion. It is a sincere effort to solve one of our greatest problems. We don't want partisan advantage. We want to make Ontario in the newsprint and pulpwood industry the great strong and growing Province she should be."

Earlier in his explanation of the purpose of the bill, he explained that the ideal aimed at was to make consumption of pulpwood balance with its production. To this end conferences had been held with men interested in the industry. He was responsible for the scheme, he continued, and it was the best solution he could devise.

The measure was then given second reading amid much Conservative applause.

After this lengthy debate the House dealt speedily with several measures. Among these was Mr. Finlayson's provincial Forest Bill, which was passed through committee.

In all, a dozen measures went through committee, and six were given second reading. Among these latter was Hon. Charles McCrea's amendment to the Mining Act, which embodies the recommendations of the Royal Commission

inquiring into the Hollinger disaster. It was given second reading on the understanding that the Minister review those recommendations and speak generally on the bill when it comes before the committee.

Premier Objects.

The bill to regulate the moving of household goods sponsored by K. K. Homuth (Conservative-Labor, South Waterloo) met objection from Premier Ferguson, who maintained that it meant the setting up in City Halls of collecting agencies levying people who were moving. Mr. Homuth declaring that he had several letters from business men in favor of the measure, requested that it be given second reading and go to committee, and the Premier agreed to this.

Tuesday - Feb. 26th.

Bill Withdrawn

Russell Nesbitt, Conservative member for Toronto-Bracondale, got a big hand from the Legislature yesterday when he withdrew the bill by which licensing of barber shops, beauty parlors and all places where hair is cut or dressed was sought. Withdrawal followed the statement of Premier Ferguson that the bill's introduction had evoked more protest than any other piece of legislation before the House.

Tuesday - Feb. 26th.

GOVERNMENT SCORED FOR NOT ANSWERING OPPOSITION QUERIES

Absence of Liquor Board Report in Legislature Draws Criticism

INFORMATION DISPENSED

"That it is the business of the Government to supply information when Opposition members ask questions and not to tell the inquiring members to go somewhere and get a report and dig out the information, was the feeling expressed by Hon. Harry C. Nixon in the Ontario House yesterday afternoon.

This Progressive member from Brant County took exception to the way the Government dealt with a couple of questions. The Opposition had asked returns as to liquor sales, the number of Liquor Control Board officials, the cost of financing the board, and the numbers of brewery warehouses and liquor stores. And the Government's reply was that this information was in the Liquor Control Board report brought down recently in the House.

Only Brief Return Needed.

"Why tell us to go and get the report?" said Mr. Nixon, and pointed out that the particular information sought could be given in a brief return, and that there were "thousands of clerks" to prepare the information. Premier Ferguson took the stand that when the information was so available to members, there was no need for their questions or returns.

"Where is the report now?" Liberal Leader Sinclair asked.

"With the King's Printer," said Ferguson.