

Feb. 12th.

# Slashing Attack, Stormy Defense, As Sinclair Goads Government; Colonel Price Resents "Rumors"

*Attorney-General Vigorously Denies Imputation That He Has Relatives in Brokerage Business and Refers to "Guttersnipes" and "Hounds" Who Circulate Such Stories—Will Prosecute All Who Should Be Prosecuted, He Says—Liberal Leader Laughs at Government "Enforcement" of Security Frauds Prevention Act and Sponsors Amendment Demanding Royal Commission of Inquiry—Why Was Charge of Conspiracy, "the Hardest to Prove," Laid Against Brokers. He Asks*

## PREMIER OUTLINES CABINET POLICY IN "CLEARING UP" THE SITUATION

William E. N. Sinclair and Hon. William H. Price "slugged it out" in the Legislature yesterday over the "brokerage business."

The clash between the Liberal Leader and the Attorney-General of Ontario was, in a sense, anticipated, but the fury with which it developed fairly electrified the crowded galleries of the House, held members spellbound in their seats, and completely outshaded everything else, in point of interest, that Leaders' day in the Address debate was able to produce.

The Sinclair-McQuibban want-of-confidence amendment, condemning "the apathy, indifference and neglect" of the Government to regulate and control stock transactions in the Province, and demanding a Royal Commission inquiry; Hon. Harry C. Nixon's vigorous endorsement of the amendment on behalf of his Progressive group; and Premier Ferguson's careful and comprehensive review of the general stock-trading situation, of what the Government had accomplished in the past, and the policy it intended to pursue in respect thereof in the future—all, it must be admitted, were so much wet powder compared with the pyrotechnical display that Mr. Sinclair's repeating to the House of downtown street gossip allegedly connecting relatives of Colonel Price with brokerage house activities touched off in the breast of the complacent Attorney-General.

Mr. Sinclair's retailing to the House of the street and hotel-corridor rumors occurred at a time when the Attorney-General was absent, presiding over the Queen's Park conference of Provincial Attorneys-General.

It was met, directly, by a challenge from Premier Ferguson, to "put the charges in writing"—and, later, after the dinner hour adjournment, it was picked up at full speed by the irate Attorney-General, himself.

In all the cold, biting, Parliamentary language at his command, Colonel Price made it perfectly plain that he resented Mr. Sinclair's attack; emphatically denied that any relative of his was a member of a Toronto brokerage firm as rumor had it; and bitterly denounced those "muckrakers" who for weeks, he said, had been circulating stories that his wife was related to member-heads of several brokerage houses.

"I'm proud of my wife," said he, while the Government Benches dinned applause, and a few galleryites even essayed a faint clap of hands. "She's related to none of them."

Time and time again Mr. Sinclair took exception to Colonel Price's cutting references. Once he asked that the word "small"—the Attorney-General had termed the former's action as a "small thing"—be withdrawn, and another time, when Colonel Price defined him "a big man," he asked that that appellation be withdrawn, too, on the ground that it had been used in an "insulting sense."

Colonel Price declared that he intended to administer his department without fear or favor, and if any relatives of his got in the way of the law, he or she would have to take the consequences like any one else.

### Ferguson Criticizes Attack.

The even tenor of Mr. Ferguson's contribution to the "brokerage business" discussion was broken by a sharp definition of Mr. Sinclair's remarks as one of "the most personal attacks the

Legislature had ever listened to." In the hour and a half he spoke, said the Premier, the Liberal Leader had not contributed a single constructive suggestion that might aid the Government in finding a solution to the big problem. Instead, it had simply been a case of venting "personal spleen."

Revelations did, however, come from the Prime Minister in the form of statements that during the recent course of action precipitated by the Government against the Toronto brokerage houses, they had had the advice of outstanding financiers, and business men; that the Attorney-General, on another occasion, had buttressed his position under the Security Frauds Prevention Act, by consulting such authorities as Bradstreet's and Dun's; and that in the arrest of the first broker, the department had not acted on information received from the Federal authorities at Ottawa, as Mr.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)



Colonel Price.



Mr. Sinclair.



Mr. Ferguson.