

Feb. 12th.

If the Government was wise in its day and generation, it would not let many hours pass, he submitted, before announcing the personnel of the Commission demanded.

Question of Privilege.

When the House resumed for the evening sitting Hon. Mr. Price immediately rose to speak "on a question of privilege" in regard to the remarks of Liberal Leader Sinclair made earlier in the day. Mr. Sinclair, who had chided Colonel Price for not being in the House during the afternoon, was himself not in his seat when the Attorney-General opened his reply. However, he entered the Chamber shortly afterward.

Hon. Mr. Price read from typewritten sheets a report of the afternoon proceedings. Mr. Sinclair immediately asked for the source of this report. The Attorney-General explained that a stenographer had "taken down" the Liberal Leader's remarks.

Mr. Sinclair—Surely you can't speak to a point of privilege until this is in the public press.

Hon. Mr. Price—Do you want to prevent me speaking to this on the floor of this House?

Mr. Sinclair—You don't need to get angry.

Hon. Mr. Price—I'm not angry. I'm telling you—

Mr. Sinclair—If the Government is going to the expense of taking a report of my speech, surely it can let me have a copy of it.

Was at Conference.

This concluded the momentary cross-fire and the Attorney-General continued: "Had the honorable member advised the Prime Minister or myself that he proposed to make personal references in his speech this afternoon, I would have been in the House." As it was, he explained, as was generally known, he was engaged in an important conference of Attorneys-General on the brokerage situation.

"And," he went on, "it was pretty small for the honorable member from South Ontario—"

"Order, order," Mr. Sinclair interrupted. "I ask the honorable member to withdraw that remark. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a ruling."

Hon. Mr. Price—If the honorable member objects to the word "small," I'll withdraw it, but, in my mind, there may be another word—a small word, too.

Mr. Sinclair—I submit again that the honorable member should name the word or not use the innuendo.

Hon. Mr. Price—I withdraw the word "small."

Mr. Sinclair—And the other remark.

Hon. Mr. Price—As far as the other remark is concerned, I think we'll leave that to the imagination.

Mr. Sinclair—I think the honorable member should not leave any inference in the minds of the people.

Premier Interjects.

Premier Ferguson interjected a few words of support for Hon. Mr. Price, and this brought from Mr. Sinclair the query, "Who is the Speaker, the Prime Minister or the Speaker?"

Hon. Mr. Price returned to the report of Mr. Sinclair's remarks and referred to the suggestion that he had

a brother-in-law in the brokerage business.

"I said that was the rumor," Mr. Sinclair interrupted.

"I have no relatives, as I understand it, engaged in the brokerage business," the Attorney-General retorted.

He declared that his brother practiced law, and might take a case from some broker, but, he continued, emphatically, his brother had never got any case from the Government. "And," the Attorney-General went on, "he has never appeared on anything before me."

Mr. Sinclair again interrupted with a query, and Colonel Price in reply declared, "I have no brother on the payroll of S. A. Taylor & Company."

No Broker Relatives.

"For months," the Attorney-General continued, hotly, "dirty, guttersnipe people have been going around the Province picking up rumors. First it was against my wife: that she was related to nearly every broker, to Sollo-way and Mills, to Taylor, to Paterson. I'm proud of my wife. She's related to none of them."

"There are," he went on, "a lot of low-down hounds who ring my house and my wife and tell what is going to happen to me. I defy the lot of them."

"And then," he added, "bringing rumors to the floor of this House. What a big man the Leader of the Opposition is!"

Mr. Sinclair rose, interjecting an objection.

Hon. Mr. Price—I'm calling you a big man. You object to calling you a small man. (Laughter.)

Mr. Sinclair—Mr. Speaker, I ask you to ask the honorable member to withdraw the word "big." (More laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Price—I withdraw the word "big." (Still more laughter.)

Mr. Sinclair—Because you used it in an insulting sense.

Hon. Mr. Price—I withdraw the word "small" and the word "big." (Uproarious laughter.)

Has Duty to Perform.

When the guffaws had quieted down Colonel Price continued to say: "In my office as Attorney-General I exercise my duty without fear or favor. If my relatives come in the way of the law they will have to look after themselves. I have many friends—in the brokerage business, in banks, lawyers, members of the House. I say to you that this is an attempt to bring up all these senseless rumors to prevent my prosecuting people who are deserving of it. I am not anxious to prosecute people. I hope I will cease to be Attorney-General when this Government expects me to prosecute for pleasure. But I have a duty to perform."

So, he declared, even if he was attacked by the member for South Ontario or any other member, or by the brokers, he would not forget his oath of office. "And," he concluded, "if any one has any attack to make on me in the House, let me know, and I'll be here."

Nixon's Contention.

Remarks of Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Leader of the Progressive group, on the brokerage question were brief, but to the point.

Where, in the Security Frauds Prevention Act, he asked, lay the "prevention" feature? There was little evidence of prevention in Ontario last year, and the "certain objectionable practices" which the Speech from the Throne admitted had grown up under the act had, in his opinion, been a regular epidemic of frauds.

For all of Attorney-General Price's contention that Ontario was handling her situation in a way that commanded the respect of the public, the great body of the people, submitted Mr. Nixon, were dissatisfied, and unless the Government showed a greater inclination to solve the brokerage problem he and his group had no other alternative than to associate themselves with the Liberal group and support the amendment to the Address.

Investigation of the whole stock market business should, in his belief, be taken out of the hands of the Attorney-General's Department and turned over to a Royal Commission.

At the outset of his remarks, Hon. Mr. Ferguson heaped satirical criticism on Liberal Leader Sinclair and Progressive Leader Nixon. "Seldom," said he, in reference to their speeches, "have I heard two addresses more devoid of constructive criticism. Mr. Nixon, he continued, had brought forward "a few shop-worn suggestions," but Mr. Sinclair had not produced one constructive proposal.

Then for 20 minutes he continued to fire broadsides of sarcasm and criticism at the Liberal Leader. He read

at length reports of Liberal meetings during the campaign, wherein Mr. Sinclair predicted a great Liberal gain in the House. Other reports, he read, forecast that several Cabinet Ministers would be defeated. "But," said the Prime Minister, amid tremendous applause, "they are all here." And he waved his right hand to emphasize his remarks.

He recalled that Mr. Sinclair had referred to the Conservative "handbook" used in the election. And so he referred to the Liberal publication of a similar character. This Liberal production he termed "a book of jokes."

Sarcasm Continues.

Then, back again with criticism of Mr. Sinclair, he declared that the Liberal Leader had, in his speech, seemed "to be running on a flat tire all the time." Moreover, Mr. Ferguson continued, Mr. Sinclair "ran into the ditch when he ran into the Attorney-General."

Had any one, he inquired, ever listened to a more pointed personal attack on any member than that made by Mr. Sinclair on the Attorney-General? "One would be almost inclined to think that there is some personal spleen or venom behind it," he added.

The Attorney-General, Mr. Ferguson continued, had to deal with difficult problems, "but the day will come in the near future when the Attorney-General will fully and completely answer any attack made by any one on his administration."

One of the difficulties encountered in dealing with the brokerage situation, Mr. Ferguson continued, is the conflict between Federal and Provincial jurisdictions. He reviewed the situation as it stood in 1926, referring to the Inter-provincial Conference of that time. Then, as he traced following developments, he recalled the later conference between the Provinces and Federal authorities.

Code Not Amended.

Completing his review up to the present time, he stated that he understood that representation had been made to the Dominion Government to amend certain sections of the Criminal Code, but that no such amendments had been made.

"I wish to impress upon this House and the public," he continued, "that this Government stands with its face firm against any type of dishonesty in business that it can discern. Our determination is that the public, in transacting ordinary affairs, shall have honest treatment and ample protection against fraudulent methods. The great thing is the protection of the public; for that the brokers can take care of themselves is generally admitted."

There are three factors in the situation, he stated, namely: The discovery and prosecution of the dishonest man; the study and improvement of methods employed in carrying on brokerage transactions; and that the action should be conducted in such a way that no panic be created in business. The Attorney-General, he observed, could create a panic at any time by improper carrying out of the work of his office.

Called in Conference.

So, Mr. Ferguson continued, the Government had called into conference, and accepted advice from, some of the biggest business men in Toronto, representatives of the largest financial houses, men of affairs, who have intimate knowledge of all forms of business development. "And," he said, "the Government and the Attorney-General has been influenced in the method and conduct of this serious matter by the advice of sane, thoughtful business men, whose judgment is respected, and whose integrity is beyond impeachment."

Mr. Ferguson pointed out that, although the Security Frauds Prevention Act had been in operation but two years, it already had been copied by other Provinces. Mr. Sinclair had asked why some other form of act—a law establishing a Commission between the broker and the public, to which every