

March. 1st.

STAR-PEDDLED "NEWS" IS BRANDED AS FALSE BY ONTARIO PREMIER

Premier Denounces Toronto Evening Paper for "Ordinary Gum-Shoe Assassination Methods" — French-Canadian Members Also Condemn Fabrications

SOWING TROUBLE BETWEEN RACES

Declaring that the Toronto Star's story of disagreement between the French-Canadian Conservative members in the Ontario Legislature and the Government was false from beginning to end, Premier Ferguson yesterday denounced the Star in the House and told the Assembly that the Star story had been deliberately fabricated to create dissension between race and race, and religion and religion.

"Thank Heaven," the Premier climaxed his denunciation, "there is no other paper in Canada, that I know of, but the Star that deals in that sort of thing."

Gist of Star Story.

The story, which appeared in the Star on Thursday, stated that Louis Cote, Conservative member for East Ottawa, and other French-Canadian members were making demands of the Government with regard to separate school taxation which the Government was loath to grant. The Star also interjected the thought that several Conservative members had lost money in stock deals and were dissatisfied with the Government's method of handling the brokerage situation.

Yesterday not only did Premier Ferguson declare the article to be a deliberate frame-up, but then Mr. Cote and Dr. Paul Poisson, Conservative member for North Essex, both declared that the statements against the French-Canadians were absolutely false.

"I seek to avoid paying attention to newspaper comment except when it involves falsehood and misrepresentation," said the Prime Minister. He held a clipping from the Star and read the story about the French members.

"Unmitigated Falsehood."

"All I have to say," he then declared, "is that it is a most unmitigated falsehood from beginning to end. There is not even a semblance of a shadow of foundation in it.

"The motto of the Star," he continued, "was 'With malice toward none.' The purpose of the Star is, by ordinary gumshoe assassination methods, to injure and crush any one with whom the Star doesn't agree. The design of this article is to sow seeds of dissatisfaction between race and race, and religion and religion. It can have no other purpose. Thank Heaven, there is no other paper in Canada, that I know of, but the Star that deals in that sort of thing."

"As the supposed leader or chief of the imaginary mutiny," said Mr. Cote, when he rose to take exception to the newspaper story, "I wish to say a few words just for the sake of truth."

"Malicious Invention."

Mr. Cote characterized the story as "a malicious invention." The only element of truth in it, he said, was where it stated that every former French Liberal seat in the Province went Conservative at the last election. "I was elected and given a mandate by my riding," he added, "to give loyal support to this Government, and that is what I intend to do. I have not tried, directly or indirectly, to extract promises from the Government, and I have not threatened them."

If the newspaper in question was not suffering entirely from illusion, it was, then, he stated, lacking in those qualities which go to make up respectable and honest journals.

Dr. Poisson declared: "I wish to repudiate any insinuation that I belong to any bloc that would separate me from any other members of this House."

He emphasized that he was a French-Canadian with generations of loyal ancestors, and proud of it. He pointed out that he represented a riding in which there were people from many nations. "And I serve them," he stated emphatically, "without distinction of class or creed."

He referred to the Star's insinuation that there was more trouble looming in the Conservative ranks. "I want to assure that trouble-seeking sheet," he added, "that there is no boil ready to burst."