

March 26th

Grave and Measured Censure Spoken by Premier Ferguson; Condemns Political Postscript

*Prime Minister Says Action
of Minister of Health in
Penning Postscript "Was
Not Only Regrettable,
But Inexcusable"*

DRAMATIC SCENE IN LEGISLATURE

*West York Member Sits
Silent Under His Lead-
er's Criticism—Mr. Fer-
guson Softens Asperity
of Judgment by Extolling
Services of Dr. Godfrey
as Minister*

In a dramatic statement in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon Premier Ferguson censured the part played by Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey in the "postscript" case.

The Prime Minister declared that the action of the Minister of Health and Labor when he penned his "P.S." on a letter dealing with a mothers' allowance case, a postscript canvassing a vote in the election, was "not only regrettable, but inexcusable," and that it could not be condoned by the public.

The Premier repeated his condemnation that the incident was "highly improper." And then, just before he resumed his seat, he stated: "What I shall have to say about it is something I'll have to make up my mind about."

After a Week of Silence.

The Prime Minister's public condemnation of the incident in which his Cabinet Minister was the principal came dramatically shortly after the sitting of the House opened. And it came after a week of silence on the part of the Prime Minister and Dr. Godfrey on the subject. For it was just a week ago that William E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, brought the matter to the attention of the House.

Dr. Godfrey sat with his fellow-Cabinet Ministers as the Prime Minister publicly voiced his attitude. As Mr. Ferguson began his statement Dr. Godfrey sat upright and glanced at him. Then, as the Premier proceeded, the Minister sat forward in his seat and rested his head between his hands. He did not look up until the Prime Minister had finished.

The Premier's words came unexpectedly yesterday, and followed a statement from Liberal Leader Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair referred to the editorial in The Globe of that morning which urged an explanation of the incident. The editorial referred to a "photograph of the letter" produced in the House by Mr. Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair wished to explain that he had produced, not a photograph, but the original letter, and that he still had it.

Premier Intervenes.

The Liberal Leader sat down and it seemed that that was the end of the matter, for Dr. Godfrey made no move to rise. The Speaker called for the orders of the day. But just then Mr. Ferguson rose. There was a moment of impressive silence, and then the Prime Minister stated that he would like to refer to the matter which Mr. Sinclair had broached.

"Speaking for myself and the Government," he declared, "I want to say that the incident is not only regrettable but inexcusable, and in my point of view a highly improper thing to do.

It may be said that it was done in a moment of indiscretion, without any serious motive. But there it is for the public to see, and from which the public may draw its own impressions.

"This Government has been very jealous of its good name and its reputation, and it is determined to maintain the confidence of the public so far as its integrity and actions are concerned. "Moment of Thoughtlessness."

"Personally I can understand how my honorable friend the Minister of Health might in a moment of thoughtlessness have added a postscript to some one he knew was interested in his campaign; but even then it is something that the public cannot condone.

"I feel that the public of the Province highly appreciates the excellent work that the Minister of Health has done since he has been in charge of the Department of Health and Labor. No Minister has worked more industriously in caring for the welfare of the people or achieved more. But this incident is most regrettable. And what I shall have to say about it is something I shall have to make up my mind about."

The Prime Minister sat down. There was again a moment of impressive silence. Then the orders of the day were called and business proceeded.

COMMITTEE DEFEATS INCOME TAX BILL AFTER LONG DEBATE

Verbal Clashes Enliven Pro-
ceedings at Queen's
Park

CRITICISM OF THE PRESS

Arguments Pro and Con Add
Zest to Colorful
Hearing

Leopold Macaulay's bill to amend the Assessment Act so as to make it optional for municipalities to abolish their municipal income tax on a two-thirds vote of Council was killed, on a vote of 32—16, by the Committee on Municipal Law of the Legislature yesterday.

Arguing, as Russell Nesbitt, Brantford member, expressed it, "on a mandate direct from the Mayor and the City Council," the Toronto members of the committee, with the single exception of Fred G. McBrien, member for Brockton, fought tooth and nail for the rejection of the bill, and provided a line of opposition that Mr. Macaulay and his two strong supporters, Karl K. Homuth (Conservative, South Waterloo) and Frank W. Wilson (Conservative, East Windsor), were, for all their vigorous counter-appeal, unable to storm successfully.

Killed on "Principle."

There was no clause-by-clause discussion of the measure, for the committee threw it out in the "principle" stage. Upward of two and a half hours was occupied in getting to a vote. During that period tempers frayed occasionally to a near-breaking point, and such a hubbub was raised at times that it was with the greatest difficulty that Hon. William Finlayson, Chairman, was able to keep order.

The Toronto attitude was endorsed by the Cities of Kitchener, Galt, Brantford, Brockville, Welland, Peterboro', London, Ottawa and Hamilton, and four spokesmen, selected from a pre-committee conference held with local municipal officials in the City Hall—James K. Bonnell, Brantford; H. J. Bennett, Assessment Commissioner, London; W. W. Foot, Kitchener's City Treasurer, and City Solicitor Waddell of Hamilton—addressed the committee, protesting against the passing of

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