

SINCLAIR CHARGES EVIDENCE FALSIFIED BEFORE COMMITTEE

Promises to Make Forests Department "Look Like 30 Cents"

CHECKED UP ON STORIES

Public Accounts Witnesses Disowned Their Statements, He Says

"If you give me a fair show at the Public Accounts Committee, with two lawyers to help me, I'll make your department look like thirty cents."

William E. N. Sinclair, Liberal House Leader, hurled that challenge across the floor of the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon at Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, in the course of one of the sharpest exchanges which have featured the present session.

During his criticism in the Budget debate of the practice of making payments of salaries in Northern development in lump sums, Mr. Sinclair reverted to evidence given at the last Public Accounts Committee by employees under the Northern Development Department.

After the last session, the Liberal House Leader continued, at his own expense he had gone to Porquis and obtained affidavits which, he said, proved that false evidence had been given before the Public Accounts Committee.

"If you will give me those statements," said Mr. Finlayson, "I'll have the matter investigated. The Public Accounts were delayed for a week last year to give you an opportunity to bring witnesses down. I thought the matter was closed. Why don't you lay the information before the Crown Attorney, so that, if there was any perjury, he can prosecute?"

"I'm giving the information now to the House," said Mr. Sinclair. "If you want to, take action or take the consequences from the public. If you will give me a fair show before the Public Accounts Committee, and two

lawyers to help me, I'll make your department look like thirty cents."

Mr. Finlayson—Pretty cheap.

Mr. Sinclair—I am human, even if I am a lawyer. It is impossible for me alone to bring out all the evidence at Public Accounts and attend to other duties in the Legislature as well.

Cestly, Says Minister.

Mr. Finlayson stated that he quite realized that Mr. Sinclair was under a disadvantage through lack of support at the Public Accounts. But he reiterated that last year, at the cost of about \$1,000, the Public Accounts Committee had sat an extra week to hear evidence relating to the payments of workers under the Northern Development Department.

"I haven't cost the public one cent," Mr. Sinclair shot back. "There is no doubt who is costing the public money."

This exchange was approached by Mr. Sinclair's discussion of evidence at last year's Public Accounts. He recited evidence that one inspector of the Northern Development Department was paid \$6 a day, managed his own farm of 147 acres, used road men on the farm when needed, and owned a store selling goods to the Government. This inspector, F. C. Richardson, continued Mr. Sinclair, reported his own time and the time of the men he hired to the Government and delivered their cheques. "He is away for hours while men work, yet he reports their time," said Mr. Sinclair. "A great system. How could any Gov-

ernment control its expenditure?"

Affidavits Discovered?

He referred to witnesses who had been brought before the Public Accounts Committee last year, and mentioned changes and conflict in their testimony on this point. After the session, he concluded, he went to Porquis himself to investigate the statements at his own expense. As a result of these investigations, he said, he learned that witnesses had signed statements last year which they later disowned at the Public Accounts Committee.

"What does the Minister think of this mess?" asked Mr. Sinclair. "He had better put his travelling auditor to work on this right away."

It was here that Mr. Finlayson in-

terposed with the remark that if the Liberal Leader had found evidence of perjury he should have laid it before the Crown Attorney.

His conclusion from his investigation, declared Mr. Sinclair, was that a political patronage system existed, and that workmen, under pressure of the fear of losing their jobs, were reluctant to reveal facts which would

injure the Government. "The Minister had hundreds of inspectors, and these inspectors employ thousands of men. The total covered by lump sum payments in 1930 under this Minister was \$6,154,455," Mr. Sinclair concluded. From statements obtained since the last session, Mr. Sinclair claimed, there was ample proof that false evidence had been given before the committee.

SCHOOL BOARD BILL, IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, IS SHELVED AGAIN

This Time Ferguson Township Scheme May Be Forgotten for Good

PREJUDICES ARE BLAMED

There will be no revival by the Henry Government this year of former Premier Ferguson's Townships School Board proposal, and from the attitude of the present Prime Minister it is doubtful if the bill will be heard of for some time.

Mr. Henry confidently believes that the arrangement will eventually operate throughout Ontario, but contends that, at the present time, "local prejudices" are still too strong to warrant any re-presentation of it.

In illustrating the local prejudice angle, the Premier recalled to The Globe yesterday that he, personally, had recently tried to introduce the proposal in his own county, in the nature of a trial experiment, and even offered gratis sufficient acreage from his own property holdings on which to build a consolidated school, but his proposition had fallen through when the various factions involved could not come to terms on minor details.

The Townships School Board Bill appeared for four straight years in the Legislature; was debated at length; was even pushed so far at one session as to be printed and circulated throughout the Province to educate the general public as to its aims. But now it has been shelved this session, as it was in 1930, and it would not be at all surprising, unofficial sources of information say, if it has been shelved for all time.

CITY BILL SHORN OF ONE CLAUSE; TWO LEFT OVER

Land Entry Extension Project Meets With Opposition

CITY TO BE CONSULTED

One clause was struck out of the City of Toronto bill and two other clauses were left over until the city authorities can be again consulted as to their wishes by the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday.

The clause struck out was one to extend from ten to fifteen years the period in which the city might defer entry on lands taken for street widenings. Fred G. McBrien (Conservative, Toronto-Brockton) strenuously opposed the measure, pointing out that a business might be compelled to erect a building back of the existing line and be "pocketed" there for years. Such a condition had occurred on Kingston Road, he said.

Clause Laid Over.

A clause to require the city to pay the excess cost of paving streets over 36 feet, was laid over. The proposal meant that pavements of less than 36 feet would have to be paid for entirely under the local improvement law. Colonel Goodwin Gibson urged that on residential streets only pavements under 28 feet should be charged to the residents. This view was strongly supported by other members of the committee, until City Solicitor Colquhoun asked Russell Nesbitt (Conservative, Toronto-Bracondale) to withdraw the clause. A controversy arose between Mr. Nesbitt and other Toronto members as to his right to withdraw the clause. Attorney-General Price, Chairman of the committee, finally suggested that the clause be left over until the city could be again consulted.

Colonel Gibson Objects.

Another clause left over for further consultation with the city would have empowered Toronto to require buildings on any street to be set back a certain distance from the existing frontages. This was objected to by Colonel Gibson and several others, on the ground that it would "pocket" new buildings on certain streets. The clause to validate the city's University Avenue extension by-law, whereby 75 per cent. of the cost will be assessed against the city as a whole and 25 under the local improvement law, was passed without discussion. Among the other provisions in the city's bill which carried were clauses to permit expenditure of \$185,000 in reconstructing the old technical school, to empower the Council to carry out agreements for the construction of stables at the Exhibition, to enable the Council to spend \$130,688 for a new fire hall, \$192,000 for new police stations, and \$65,000 for Eglinton Park swimming pool, and to ratify the Church Street extension and Avenue Road widening. The clause to permit the city to construct incinerators outside city limits brought to the committee representatives from the surrounding Yorks and Forest Hill Village, who received assurance that these communities could decide on the location of any such incinerators within their boundaries.

The bill to incorporate the United Farmers' Co-operative Association was carried in spite of strenuous objections, led by Robert H. Halbert, former President, and J. G. Whitmore, a former director.