

Feb. 19.

scarcely a ripple from either benches or galleryites, until he got down to Hydro, and the constant and ever-varying ramifications of the Hydro question.

There was no mention of the \$125,000 Aird-Beauharnois payment. There was no mention of other power contracts that have not been rendered "sub judice," so far as discussion is concerned, by the present Royal Commission inquiry. There was, in fact, no reference whatever to the publicly owned power enterprise of Ontario, except in regard to the alleged association of Mr. Hepburn with the Chicago-directed propaganda. That reference, coupled with the determined attempt made by the Premier earlier in the afternoon to pin down the Liberal and Progressive groups, man by man, to an expressed endorsement of Mr. Hepburn's Milton and Preston speeches and his general policy with regard to Hydro, was sufficient, however, literally to tear things loose.

#### Members Enjoy Slapstick.

In the "vaudeville show" which followed, tempers frayed to fever heat; voices shrilled off key; galleryites with utter disregard for attendants and House rules hand-clapped their approval and disapproval; desks banged; and the principals in the performance—just how many of the 112 elected members participated will never be known—enjoyed themselves to the full.

"Finish your speech and sit down," shouted William J. Bragg (Liberal, Durham) on one occasion.

"I'll sit down when I get good and ready," retorted Premier Henry.

For three-quarters of an hour the Prime Minister directed his fire into the Opposition ranks, striving by bold, direct interrogation to force them into a "We're behind Hepburn" admission. But in the end the Opposition were striking back vigorously through what is allegedly the weakest link in the Premier's armor—sarcasm—until at one time he was stormily appealing to the Speaker that "Order" be called on his opponents for their frequent interruptions and utter disregard of what he was saying.

#### Copy of Paper Produced.

Mr. Henry backed his charges against Mr. Hepburn by producing a copy of the Chicago journal complained of, and by reading from it certain excerpts which, he affirmed, tallied with public statements that have been made by the Provincial Liberal Leader. Instead of getting accurate statements on Hydro for his speeches and press comments, Mr.

Hepburn, alleged the Premier, had been sent a copy of the Chicago organ, and had adopted it as his doctrine.

"What proof have you of that?" interrupted Thomas Murray, Liberal, South Renfrew.

Mr. Henry waved a Globe news report in reply. "Here it is in The Globe. You find it word for word with what this magazine carries."

"I don't believe everything I see in the morning papers," retorted Mr. Murray.

"Then there's some hope for you," said Mr. Henry. "You'd better not believe Hepburn, either."

#### Mr. Nixon Enters Fray.

Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, put in with the suggestion that The Globe report may have been a "misquoting" of Mr. Hepburn.

A chorus of "Ah, now's" welled up from the Tory benches.

"Aw, yes," smiled Mr. Nixon. "Only three days ago the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture stood up in this House and repudiated every word I read from an article in The Globe."

Three other incidents in the rapier-play between Government and Opposition benches stood out in the afternoon's performance.

Mr. Henry, in stating that there were many Liberals supporting Hydro as well as Conservatives, told the House that Mr. Hepburn had not been the leader-choice of the Liberal people at large, but had been elected at a convention, the banquet incident to which had been attended by one of the Senators who had helped to drag the party into the "Valley of Humiliation."

Asked after the House adjourned what Senator he had meant, Mr. Henry replied: "Senator Hayden. I understand he was present."

#### Dr. Simpson Hits Hard.

From Dr. L. J. Simpson (Liberal, Centre Simcoe) the Government and its supporters received a right-hand jab that rattled their composure momentarily, and drew from the Prime Minister his possibly most heated reply of the day. Declaring that it ill became the Premier to picture the Liberals and Progressives in "double-harness," he expressed the wonder if the Prime Minister and Attorney-General Price did not represent a two-horse leadership within the Conservative Party, and hinted at a possible fuss between the two when the Premier had returned to Queen's Park after his Western Canada trip.

"I'm out in front here," replied Mr. Henry, while his supporters applauded. "I lead."

To Charles A. Robertson (Liberal, North Huron) went the day's palm for the retort par excellence.

"I don't know anything about Hydro contracts and I admit it," he said. "But in spite of that fact I think I could speak a lot closer to the point than did the Prime Minister."

#### Hydro History Traced.

In developing his attack on Mr. Hepburn, Mr. Henry briefly traced the development of the power enterprise from its inception in Waterloo County down to the present day, maintaining that "from the very beginning of it" Liberal Governments and Liberals at large had been "decidedly antagonistic" to distribution of publicly owned power in Ontario. Throughout the span of Sir Adam Beck's regime, he charged, there had been a determined effort on the part of the Opposition forces to thwart the former's views.

"If Sir Adam Beck were alive today," said Mr. Henry, "he would say there will be attacks now as there were then. History is only repeating itself. You must expect attacks from time to time. But the people of this Province are wise and they will back Hydro."

Poking ridicule at the various Leaders in the present House and at "the one now running at large," Mr. Henry drew attention to the alleged synchronization of effort on their part in Hydro speeches, saying that Mr. Hepburn had spoken in Mount Brydges; Dr. George A. McQuibban, Liberal Whip, in Paris; and Hon. Mr. Nixon in St. George, almost in the same breath.

"And I made a good speech," put in Mr. Nixon.

"Oh, I don't know," the Premier came back. "I'd be more interested in the matter than in the speech."

#### Mr. Sinclair Objects.

Mr. Henry endeavored to twit the Opposition benches as to whether they belonged to the Sinclair or the Hepburn camps, and Mr. Sinclair called the Speaker's attention to the Premier's remarks, contending the latter clearly was not speaking to the Liberal amendment before the House.

"He can't go over the whole lot," objected Mr. Sinclair.

"I don't know why I shouldn't," observed Mr. Henry. "Your amendment takes in pretty near all the world at large."

"It takes in some things under the earth," cracked Mr. Sinclair, "that the Government doesn't seem anxious to let the people know about."

Mr. Henry recalled that on the very same day last week Messrs. Hepburn and Nixon had used the expression, "They've given us a wooden shovel to dig with" in the Hydro inquiry, "instead of a spade to dig right through to China."

"It just shows that great minds think together," smiled Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Henry—Little David is growing up.

Mr. Nixon—And the big Goliath is getting smaller and smaller.

Mr. Henry—What you over there want is not a spade to dig down to China, but one to dig yourselves out of the Valley of Humiliation.

#### Replies Demanded.

With the benches and galleries a titter of speculation, and plainly relishing the spectacle before them, the Prime Minister now "went after" each Liberal and Progressive member, individually. Reading an extract from Mr. Hepburn's Milton speech, he demanded to know of T. A. Blakelock (Liberal, Halton) whether he supported Mr. Hepburn and his policy. After cries from Conservatives of "Get up on your feet and answer," Mr. Blakelock said that he did agree with Mr. Hepburn. In rapid order, the Premier

singled out other Liberals. Painstakingly persistent, he roused every man of them to his feet. W. J. Mackay (South Bruce) said if the Premier was a mind-reader, "as you think you are," he would know Mr. Mackay's attitude without asking. W. J. Bragg, Durham, told the Premier to "get on with his speech." Fred Elliott's refusal to comment drew from Mr. Henry the laughing observation that "men from Bruce are usually courageous." Dr. Simpson, after thrusting at the Premier about the supposed Henry-Price leadership, was emphatic that he was a Liberal who thought his own thoughts, and did not agree with every man, but who regarded Mr. Hepburn as an honorable gentleman, with whom he was proud to associate.

#### Mr. Murray "Not Chained."

T. P. Murray (South Renfrew) said that when the people of his riding had sent him to the Legislature they had, he believed, entrusted him with doing what he believed to be in the best interests of the constituency. "They didn't send me to be chained down to what any one man thinks or may do," said Mr. Murray.

Norman O. Hipel (South Waterloo) declared he would answer the question of where he stood when the proper time came.

"Where do you and your cohorts come in?" the Prime Minister asked Mr. Nixon. "Are you following your

new-found alliance man, Mr. Hepburn?"

Mr. Nixon—In this group, Mr. Speaker, we have men of brains and individuality and they reserve the right to use them under any circumstances and at any time they see fit.

Not deterred by this reply, the Premier prodded D. J. Taylor (North Grey). "I'll go on in good time," said he.

"I have answered many catechisms," snapped D. M. Ross (North Oxford), "but I won't answer yours."

And from T. K. Slack (Dufferin) came an indignant, "Get on with you. This is not a fishing expedition."

#### Interchange With Mr. Sinclair.

An interchange of words at this juncture, between Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Henry, as to whether the latter should use The Globe to quote statements of Mr. Hepburn from, was interrupted by the Speaker, who stated that members should stick to the point of discussion involved, but who pointed out that no member need answer another's question if he did not wish.

Mr. Henry commented on Mr. Hepburn's platform statement on various occasions that the Liberal Party stood for the conservation of power for the people. "What did the Liberal Party in this Province," he asked, "ever do to conserve water power? I say they would have sold it all to the private interests."

#### Misrepresentation Charged.

Branding the Provincial Liberal Leader's Milton speech as "misrepresentation of the facts," the Prime Minister said: "We all know that we have had to go outside the Province to buy power to take care of our shortage because of the policy of the former Liberal Government at Ottawa." Waving his hands at the Opposition benches, he added: "Why don't you admit it like honorable gentlemen. Admit your mistake and come here with clear minds to discuss this important question."

In quoting some of Mr. Hepburn's platform figures, Mr. Henry came under the attack of Mr. Nixon again.

"Is that the Gatineau power you're talking about?"

"Yes," said Mr. Henry.

"Is that contract payable in American funds?"

"I think the interest on some of the bonds is."

"I mean the payments for the power."

"That question is under debate, I understand, and we can discuss it later."

#### Opposition Hits Back.

At this stage began the Opposition counter-attack, which quickly put the Premier in a testy frame of mind. Liberal members began to chat informally with one another. The hum of voices jarred on the Premier's address. Some members left their seats. Others swung around in their chairs.

"I would like my honorable friends to listen to this," said the Premier, armed with another Globe editorial.