

Feb. 23.

HARDY DID NOT GET BEAUHARNOIS FUNDS, HENRY NOW ADMITS

Liberal Campaign Funds
Went to W. R. P. Parker,
Premier Says

LETTERS EXCHANGED

On the request of Senator A. C. Hardy, President of the Ontario Liberal Association, Premier Henry, in the Legislature yesterday, expressed regret that in a recent reference to Beauharnois contributions he had inadvertently coupled the President of the Liberal Association with the receipt of \$3,000 in campaign funds instead of the name of W. R. P. Parker, Vice-President, to whom the Beauharnois contribution had gone.

The Prime Minister's regret, and the request which prompted it, were expressed in letters which passed between Senator Hardy and Mr. Henry during the past few days. These letters were read to the Legislature yesterday.

Senator's Letter to Henry.

Senator Hardy's letter to Mr. Henry was:

"My dear Prime Minister:

"In the reports of the debates of your House on Tuesday (I think) you are reported as saying in connection with Beauharnois contributions where some one was supposed to have had a considerable subscription given to him, that 'he was not a piker like the President of the Ontario Liberal Association.' That this refers only to the subscription that was taken for the Ontario Provincial Party of two or three thousand dollars I feel certain. I am and have been for many years the President of the association and, as you know, was not the party who received this contribution and, as a matter of fact, I knew nothing of it until several months later.

"I have been President of the Ontario Liberal Association for so long that it is a very well-known fact throughout the country, and it is most unfair to me and, indeed, to yourself that such a statement should be made even in error and published. I think I am entitled to ask you to explain on the floor of the House very shortly this error on your part and to make what amends may seem to be fair to you."

Premier's Reply.

Mr. Henry wrote in reply:

"My dear Senator: In reply to yours of the 19th instant let me say I am sorry that in referring to the Beauharnois contribution of \$3,000 to the Ontario Liberal Association I inadvertently said this was made to the President of the association, when I should have said the First Vice-President. I do not think any one in the House was misled, as it was clearly shown in the Beauharnois investigation that the payment was made to Mr. W. R. P. Parker. However, as I have never seen at any time where you have dissociated yourself from, or expressed disapproval of, Mr. Parker's acceptance of this money, as did Mr. Sinclair, I quite understand how you feel there may be confusion in the public mind on the matter, and I will be glad to explain to the House that it was the First Vice-President, Mr. Parker, and not yourself, the President, who actually received the money."

NAMING OF COUNSEL FOR PROBE OF HYDRO REFUSED BY HENRY

It's for Commissioner, Not
Government, to Decide,
He Declares

REPLIES TO NIXON

As far as Premier George S. Henry and his Ontario Government are concerned, no further counsel will be appointed to the Royal Commission inquiry into the \$50,000 Aird-Madawaska payment and the Dominion Power and Transmission Company purchase. Mr. Henry made this perfectly plain in the Legislature yesterday, when, in answer to an interrogation from Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, he stated emphatically:

"I thought I had made our attitude clear some days ago. The Government appointed a Commissioner to bring out the facts in connection with the purchase by the Hydro of the Madawaska power properties and with the Dominion Power transaction. The Commissioner was authorized to engage what counsel he saw fit. I have nothing further to say."

Mr. Nixon's interrogation was couched in the following language:

"Before the orders of the day are called, may I be permitted to draw to your attention an item in this morning's Globe under the heading, 'Exhibit One,' which reproduces the cover of the Dominion Power and Transmission Company contract, showing that the firm of Tilley, Johnston, Thomson & Parmenter acted for the Hydro in this deal, which is under inquiry, and in view of this disclosure may I ask the Premier if he proposes to maintain his attitude in regard to counsel or will he give direction to the Commissioner that when our counsel appears before him on Thursday he should be accorded full recognition and rights of full participation in the proceedings, without cost to the Province?"