

February 20

HOUSE FLOUTED BY LIQUOR BOARD, NIXON CONTENDS

Should Be Dismissed, He
Claims in Notice of
Motion

INFORMATION IS REFUSED

Oust the Liquor Board for flouting the Legislature's order, urges Progressive Leader Harry Nixon in a notice of motion tabled yesterday in the Ontario Legislature. Mr. Nixon's contention is that the House carried unanimously a call for gross sales and costs of three liquor stores, and that this information was refused.

The Nixon motion follows:

"In the opinion of this House, Commissioner McClenaghan and Commissioner McNamara of the Ontario Liquor Board should forthwith be dismissed from office for holding in contempt the authority of this House, and in refusing to comply with the orders of this Assembly, passed unanimously on Thursday, April 13, 1933, Votes and Proceedings No. 355, namely: "On motion of Mr. Medd, seconded by Mr. Ross, ordered that there be laid before this House a return showing: 4. (a) What were the gross sales in the following liquor stores during the last fiscal year: Woodstock, Brantford, Paris? (b) What was the total cost of local administration in each instance?" unless the board immediately abandons its present attitude and complies with the orders of this Assembly."

An attempt to conceal information of political interest is alleged by the Progressive group in the House. According to them, no fewer than three defeated Conservative candidates are on the staff of one of the liquor stores in question.

Further, strong protest was made against what is considered the high-handed attitude of the Government and Liquor Board in withholding information declared to be in the public interest.

CHARGE WITHDRAWN AS SPEAKER RULES

Shields Drops Personal Reference to Nixon in House

QUOTED BECK CLAIM

A Speaker's ruling at the beginning of yesterday's session of the Legislature brought withdrawal of the charge against Hon. Harry C. Nixon recently made by George S. Shields (Conservative, Woodbine) alleging that Sir Adam Beck had labelled the Progressive Leader "the worst enemy of Hydro." Although the member for Woodbine offered proof that Sir Adam Beck had charged that Drury Government members had desired "to scuttle the Hydro ship," he was requested to withdraw his charge when he was unable to show that these remarks had been personally directed at Mr. Nixon.

Before introducing the clippings of Sir Adam's address, Mr. Shields argued that the principle of Cabinet solidarity entailed responsibility on each Minister for charges directed against the Government. In answer, the Progressive Leader pointed out that Mr. Shields's original charges had named him personally, and renewed his request for a ruling. A little later he stated that he would be satisfied only "if he withdraws the definite charge that I was singled out by Sir Adam."

The member for Woodbine then claimed that his remarks had been corroborated by information from a former member and an employee. "Name the employee," the Liberal benches shouted, but Mr. Shields indignantly declined to do so. Mr. Speaker Kidd ruled the charge, in its personal reference to Mr. Nixon, withdrawn, and the member for Woodbine bowed to the Speaker, remarking: "Your rulings have been always fair."