

March 2

Tories Force Vote

And Get Beaten

You go back to your Alberta cow bill!

You get out from behind the piano box!

Order! Order! Order! Order!

Order! Order!—division.

All that was lacking at Queen's Park at yesterday's debates was "Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan."

Hon. W. H. Price precipitated the opera, wrote a good part of it. It was the former Attorney-General who insisted upon and obtained a division at 5.45 of a Friday afternoon.

Many a rural legislator—and they are mainly good Liberals—was riding back to his home constituency with a good conscience. Prime Minister Mitchell F. Hepburn was in North Bay. Chief Whip Harold Kirby was absent. The right wing of the Cabinet benches was practically a void.

Government Wins.

The Government finally won the division by a vote of 34 to 14.

The Colonel precipitated the matter. When Hon. Arthur Roebuck saw the clock reach 5.20 he moved to adjourn the debate.

"Mr. Speaker," said Colonel Price, "I ask if I am not entitled to continue the debate until 6 o'clock. I have been listening for nine hours." The time for debate, the Colonel pointed out, had been set "until 6 o'clock."

"I know I have offended in this nine-hour debate," Mr. Roebuck replied. The Liberal benches murmured "No, no!"

"If it's necessary," he continued, "I am ready to go on for nine more hours. I reserve my right to take up further matters."

The Minister of Agriculture, Colonel Price suggested, has whispered that "you could cut me out."

"That, Mr. Speaker, is a deliberate falsehood." This came from Hon. Duncan Marshall, who was on his feet and blazing.

"I have the floor," said Colonel Price. "You go back to your Alberta cow bill."

The Colonel's last word raised press gallery debate, where it was argued

that he had said cow-pen, cow-bell or cow-barn.

"You get back behind the piano box," shouted the Minister of Agriculture. Somebody grinned and relieved the tension.

Cries for Order.

There was a moment of bedlam and then cries for "Order, order, order, order!"

The former Attorney-General began motioning to his colleagues and a half-dozen rose from the benches—the formal call for division.

The member for Parkdale, said Mr. Marshall, should withdraw his statement.

"You get back to your cow bill."

"You get out of your piano-box and tell the truth."

"There is a ruling before this House."

"I appeal the ruling," said Colonel Price. The Conservatives were motioned out of their benches again.

The members started to stand up to be polled and there was obviously uncertainty about procedure.

"I contend," said the former Attorney-General, "that the roll should be called."

Leader of the House Hon. Harry C. Nixon was angry.

"You want a division—do you?"

There was a nodded assent, and the House lapsed into the released tension of the brief interval that precedes a vote. The bells in the Buildings started to ring. The House Leader strode down the floor. A couple of Conservatives were grinning.

A Joke? Asks Nixon.

"Isn't this a joke?" Mr. Nixon asked some five minutes later. "I would ask you to rule that this division be taken in a reasonable time."

"We're ready," said the Opposition.

Some one shut off the bell, and the "big parade" of Sergeant-at-Arms and two Whips marched down the floor. By ancient usage the House accompanies the parade with a dining desk-thumping. Yesterday's was feeble.

Some one mixed signals again, and the Liberals stood up as one man to be polled. Assistant Clerk C. F. Bulmer dissolved the dilemma.

"Hon. Dr. Faulkner," he called. The Minister of Health bowed, and the vote went on to its conclusion. It was strictly a party division, from the Cabinet benches to M. M. MacBride. Some one started to applaud as J. A. Sangster of Glengarry stood up for the Government.

"The vote," it was announced, "was 34 for the ruling and 14 against."

The Liberals thumped their desks, but the Conservatives thumped with more jubilation. Hon. Harry C. Nixon moved adjournment of the House.