

Animosity Flares Over Quints' Future

Dr. Dafoe Hears Bitter Cross-Fire—Tories Oppose Croll's Wide Powers—Rude Lan- guage Hurlled

WHILE Canada's most famous babies — the Dionne quintuplets — lay gurgling in quiet contentment yesterday afternoon in their cribs in far-off Callander, a violent storm broke over the Ontario Legislature.

Objection Raised.

It was precipitated by members of the Opposition, who took strong objection to terms of the bill designed to guard the welfare of these infants for the next seventeen years.

The dignity of Queen's Park proceedings was rudely shattered when such phrases as "He's a liar," "hypocrisy" and "a punch in the nose" were hurled across the Legislative Chamber.

Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe, physician to the Dionne family, was a spectator in the House yesterday when the storm in connection with his famous charges broke. Premier Hepburn keenly regretted that the bitter cross-firing cropped up when the famous doctor was himself a visitor in the Chamber. Out of the heat came the announcement from the Hon. David A. Croll, Minister of Public Welfare, and sponsor of the bill, that the active guardians for the five babies would be their father, Oliva Dionne, and Dr. Dafoe.

Unexpected Move.

Premier Hepburn moved unexpectedly yesterday, when he asked that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the bill clause by clause. All clauses of the bill were passed, and the Premier announced that third and final reading would be given at the next sitting of the Legislature.

Vigorous objection raised by members of the Opposition to certain terms of the bill was met with this firm statement from the Premier: "Members of the Opposition can obstruct all they like, but this bill is going through in its present form without us dotting one 'i' or crossing one 't.'"

The charge that Opposition members were attempting to make political capital out of the Dionne bill was voiced by J. J. Glass (Liberal, St. Andrew's).

"Their action is hypocrisy—nothing else but hypocrisy," he declared heatedly.

Leopold Macaulay (Conservative, South York) protested the word and asked the Chairman for a ruling.

"I am ruling that it is an offensive word," said J. H. Clarke (Liberal, Windsor-Sandwich), Chairman of the committee of the whole.

"It may be true, though," came a remark from a member on the Government side.

Hurls Accusation.

"If the honorable member from St. Andrew makes that charge outside this House, he's a liar," shouted Colonel W. H. Price.

There was a murmur of protest throughout the Chamber.

"I won't ask for a retraction, because I consider where the remark comes from," declared Mr. Glass.

Premier Hepburn jumped to his feet and declared heatedly: "I'll ask for a withdrawal. In all my Parliamentary experience I have never heard a member called a liar."

Colonel Price declared he would withdraw the statement as far as the House was concerned.

"If you make it outside the House you know what you'll get," retorted the Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary.

"He'll get a punch in the nose," was a remark hurled from the Government back benches, but the speaker could not be spotted, not having risen in his seat.

When the House quieted down and all the clauses of the bill had been passed, with the House dividing and defeating two motions presented by the Opposition regarding a suggested change in the measure, the Premier asked that the bill be reported.

"I had hoped," the Premier stated, "that this bill would be given a unanimous third reading, but it is obvious that will not be possible."

Wilfrid Heighington (Conservative, St. David) appealed to the Premier to allow the bill to stand so that the Opposition members could present further their objections.

"I am going to turn that request aside," the Premier announced. "I am calling for the report of the bill." The Chairmen then reported the bill passed in all its clauses without amendment.

The main contention of the Opposition members was that the Minister of Public Welfare should not take on himself such wide powers as special guardian with power to pass on all contracts and have absolute control of the funds of the Dionne quintuplets.

Amendment Suggested.

Mr. Heighington suggested that the bill should be amended so that the guardians appointed are left under present legislation—that is, under the supervision of either the Official Guardian of the Province or the Public Trustee. This thought was shared by Colonel Price. The latter moved along these lines, and was supported in the motion by Conservative members of the House. Sam Lawrence (C.C.F.), who on Tuesday declared that his party of one in the House would be with the Opposition, voted, however, on this and the second Opposition motion with the Government.

"I don't think," Colonel Price remarked, "that the Hon. the Minister of Welfare realizes just how much power he is to assume. We have seen the spectacle of lawyers around here lobbying already."

"They're here, all right," put in the Premier.

"And they'll be lobbying from time to time to have these guardians supplanted," put in Colonel Price. He also objected to the clause giving the guardians the right to act on a majority vote.

"The Minister of Welfare has already intimated there will be only two active guardians," Colonel Price stated, and wondered how agreement on all matters could thus be reached.

Co-operation Expected.

"Mr. Dionne and Dr. Dafoe will work together," assured the Minister of Welfare. "If they don't we can appoint another or more guardians as we feel the need arises."

Wilfrid Heighington assured the House the Opposition had nothing "political" in mind in opposing certain clauses, but merely wanted a bill which would provide adequate guardianship. He objected to the manner in which the Government passed over their objections.

"We don't want to sit here and shoot cartridges at a plank wall," he said.

"Blank cartridges," put in the Provincial Secretary.

Leopold Macaulay's motion that the name of the Minister of Welfare be stricken out as it related to "special guardianship" met with the same fate as did the Price motion.

"What," asked Colonel Price, "is the Minister going to do with the money in the trust fund?"

To Invest Fund.

"Invest it," replied Mr. Croll. "Perhaps in Province of Ontario bonds."

"It is my strong opinion," declared Colonel Price, "that the money should be put in independent hands."

At this juncture Morgan Baker (Liberal, North York) declared that at one time Colonel Price as Attorney-General had "diverted" children's funds to the Province.

Colonel Price jumped to his feet and demanded a retraction, which was given.

"It was an attempt to divert funds in connection with the Millar will," Mr. Baker declared.

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. George S. Henry, was visibly angered when he rose to speak.

"I'm surprised," he declared, "to see the Government sit mum and call on their phalanx to get up and vote. The Attorney-General hasn't seen fit to answer a question. There is no attempt on our part to thwart the intent of the bill. We are all in favor of proper guardianship, as is the whole Province."