

into the first major tangle of the debate when he launched a scathing lacing at Minister of Education Dr. Simpson, then absent from the Legislature.

The Toronto M.P.P., K.C., and Orangeman turned on the Minister when he attacked the Government for bringing down school legislation in the Legislature's dying hours—the same school legislation which the Fathers of Confederation had studied for twenty years.

"Twenty years or more the Fathers of Confederation had this contentious question on their hands. Twenty years—the Fathers of Confederation, men like Brown, Macdonald, Cartier—twenty years getting it settled, and yet the Government, with three days to go, puts it in the books.

"The Minister of Education got up today—fifteen minutes."

"That's not correct," Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck broke in.

"I won't quarrel over two or three minutes," said Mr. Nesbitt. "He got up for half an hour, we'll say, and talked for ten minutes of wonderful ideals—

"I want to say that wasn't what we wanted the Minister of Education to talk about. We wanted the Minister of Education to discuss this bill in detail.

"Where is he now, the Minister of Education—and this bill going through the House? The Minister of Education got up and gave three cities and said the corporation taxes didn't change the rates much. And when I asked him how this bill affected Northern Ontario, of which The Globe newspaper complained so bitterly, he didn't have a thing."

Reviews School System.

"Where is he? He owes it to the courtesy of his position to be in this House when this bill goes through. Where is the sponsor of this bill (the Premier) when it is going through? Speaking of good will—the Provincial Secretary is smiling."

"They've read those Telegram editorials," Harry Nixon said. (Mr. Nesbitt had been reading Telegram editorials at length.)

"And they'll write your obituary as the result of those Telegram editorials."

"The Telegram has been asking for my obituary for eighteen years," Mr. Nixon grinned. "How much of a majority did you get in the last election?"

The Toronto member's speech had been prior to the outburst on a review of Quebec and Ontario school conditions and school taxes documented by lengthy newspaper clippings. Once when he taunted, "Men who support public schools and who won't stand up for their schools in this House," he had Liberals stirred.

Mr. Nesbitt unleashed batteries of figures showing that Protestant money was being taken to teach Catholic children in Quebec.

"Does that mean the Protestants have the wealth and the Catholics have the children?" T. P. Murray, Renfrew Liberal, summed up the argument.

Ideals of Hon. George Brown.

An attempt was being made, complained Mr. Nesbitt, to rush the bill through in the dying hours of the session, while not one school board in the Province knew what share of the cost it would have to bear.

"Are you going to live up to the ideals set for your party by Hon. George Brown," he asked the Liberal members, "or are you going to place yourselves under obligation of one sectarian group?"

"The Prime Minister has said that he has no doubt of the constitutionality of this House amending the Assessment Act. How does he know? He may have secured the opinion of a few lawyers learned in constitutional law, but others have different opinions." Here Mr. Nesbitt quoted a number of legal opinions published in the press, and another opinion submitted by the late Judge Scott. Separate school supporters, Judge Scott had declared, had no right to ask for extension of their privileges, and the Ontario Legislature had no right to grant them.

Situation in Hull.

Replying to claims that the Protestant minority in Quebec was treated generously, the Bracondale member declared that in 1931-32 in Hull, out of a total school tax of \$100,149.08, the Protestants received only 4.6 per cent., or \$4,682.

"This," he said, "despite the fact that one concern, the E. B. Eddy Company—an entirely Protestant firm—contributed one-half the total corporation tax."

"How many public schools are there in Hull?" asked Dr. A. Des Rosiers, Liberal member for Russell.

"None," shot back Mr. Nesbitt. "Where did you ever get the idea that there were any public schools in the Province of Quebec?"

"And yet," went on the Toronto Tory, "here in Ontario Frank O'Connor is able to keep on, year after year, handing over the entire tax of his vast business enterprise to the separate schools, while Protestant firms in Quebec have no such corresponding privilege."

HON. G. S. HENRY NONCOMMITTAL ON BILL REPEAL

Declines Proffered Opportunity to Be Specific

Conservative Leader Henry declined in the Legislature shortly before midnight last night to commit his party to repeal of the school tax bill if returned to power.

"Pussyfooting," Attorney-General Roebuck charged, as five minutes of shouts of "Riffraff!" and "Order, order!" were drowned out in a crescendo of Liberal applause.

Mr. Roebuck began by stating that the former Prime Minister had intimated in the afternoon that he would repeal the legislation if he was returned to power.

"I demand that he withdraw, as I never made such a statement," Mr. Henry said.

"Now, will you say it?" the Attorney-General demanded, amid loud Liberal applause.

"Am I to have those words withdrawn, Mr. Speaker?" the Tory Leader asked after the tumult subsided.

"Very well," said the Attorney-General. "I will withdraw it on the understanding that my honorable friend now intimates—"

Liberal applause drowned out the Attorney-General.

"Come across," the Tories demanded.

"Is the gentleman standing on his feet or on his head?" asked Mr. Roebuck. "Is he black or white?"

There was more cheering and Liberal applause.

"The honorable member says he doesn't know whether I'm black or white," Mr. Henry answered. "I'm red-blooded."

The former Premier demanded an unequivocal withdrawal and "no pussyfooting." Mr. Speaker asked for the words to which Mr. Henry objected.

"I did not intimate that I would repeal the act."

The Attorney-General sprung the trap.

"Surely now if he is the red-blooded man he is talking about he will say if he will repeal it or if he won't. The honorable member worked both the public school supporters and the separate school supporters in the last election, and he's hoping to try it at the next.

"If he can't state his stand to the Protestant opposition to the separate schools, he will have the opposition of those gentlemen. He will fall between two chairs on the pussyfooting method he has adopted as he fell between the two chairs on the beer question.

"One thing the people want is a clear and courageous statement of where they do stand. I invite the people to take their choice. The man across the way (Mr. Henry) can't say if he'd repeal it if he had the power or if he would continue it if he had the power. I ask them to choose between the forthright methods of the Government in meeting this problem and trying to settle it and the pussyfooting across the way."