

Conservative M.L.A. for South York Escorted From Chamber by Sergeant-at-Arms

DEFIES THE SPEAKER

Member Refuses to Accept Closure Moved by Premier — Wildest Scene in History of Legislature

Hon. Leopold Macaulay, former Minister of Highways, was forcibly ejected from the Legislature last night by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Captain Charles Rutherford, V.C., on orders of Speaker Norman Hipel.

The wildest twenty minutes in the history of the Ontario Legislature followed Premier Hepburn's application of closure to the motion on repeal of the School Tax Bill.

Late last night, on motion of Premier Hepburn, Mr. Macaulay was voted back into his seat in the House.

Openly defying Speaker Hipel, who ordered him to take his seat, Mr. Macaulay became the first victim of the traditional authority of the Legislature to remove an insubordinate member.

It was as if the members of the House—particularly those of the Opposition—had taken temporary leave of their senses.

"It is the dirtiest trick in the history of Ontario!" shouted Mr. Macaulay, holding the floor against a terrific uproar as Government members cried: "Order, order!"

Speaker Hipel, who has been called upon to make many difficult decisions during the past three years, now faced the stormiest crisis in Provincial Legislature history.

"I order the member for South York to sit down," he said, his voice carrying above the uproar.

"I won't sit down. I have the floor," shouted Mr. Macaulay, eyes gleaming behind his spectacles. The uproar became deafening.

Premier Hepburn sat white-faced in his seat, taking no part in the indescribable confusion, which even communicated itself to the crowded galleries.

"You can't take it," taunted Mr. Macaulay, jeering in the direction of the Treasury benches.

"Sit down, sit down!" came a chorus of Liberal voices. Opposition Leader George Henry, his face red with anger, encouraged his colleague.

"You can't do this, and I am not going to take it—in the name of democracy," yelled Mr. Macaulay, now out of his seat.

The uproar became so terrific that the militant member for South York turned his head upward to the Press Gallery, immediately overhead, and yelled: "Take this down, you fellows. It is the dirtiest, rottenest trick ever perpetrated in this or any other Legislature."

From the east Press Gallery it could not be seen what Speaker Hipel was doing, but when Captain Rutherford, hero of the Great War, advanced from his seat on the floor of the House, toward Mr. Macaulay, it was obvious to all what was going to happen, but Mr. Macaulay kept on speaking. He shouted above the noise, holding his position against the hostile shouts of the Liberals.

Captain Rutherford entered the first-row aisle and took Mr. Macaulay by the arm.

The irate member attempted to shake off the grip, but the Sergeant-at-Arms firmly swung him about, and marched him along the aisle on to the floor of the House.

Then bedlam broke loose.

The Conservatives stood up and roared their protests as Mr. Macaulay, held firmly, was taken to the front door and ejected into the main corridor.

All the pent-up emotion of strained weeks of controversy burst in a torrent

of noise and hot, angry words.

Draped With Flag.

George H. Challies (Conservative, Grenville-Dundas) rushed outside and returned with a Union Jack, which he draped over the empty seat of the ejected member.

"You're disgracing the flag to cover yourself up," shouted Hon. Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines. Mr. Challies paid no attention. He proceeded to drape the flag across the front of the desk, amid the applause of his colleagues and the jeers of the Liberals.

This was the signal for a fresh outburst from the Opposition, and there was no restraining them.

Cheated, as they believed, of the opportunity of "rubbing it in" on the Government, they waved their arms, shouted themselves hoarse and generally let themselves go.

The unprecedented occurrence was in marked contrast to the peace and harmony that prevailed while the Prime Minister was speaking and explaining his reasons for repealing the school bill.

Ironically enough, the Prime Minister ended with the statement, loudly applauded by his followers, that he was repealing the bill to prevent religious warfare, and even bloodshed, from breaking out in Ontario.

"This has been a bitter and hectic session," he said. "No doubt, there will be more harsh words said before it is over."

"No worse than your words," declared Mr. Henry.

Touches off Explosion.

And then the Prime Minister touched off the spark that set the emotional dynamite off into the worst explosion ever seen in a Provincial Legislature.

He said:

"I am going to forestall it," he said. "I am going to move, seconded by Mr. Nixon of Brant, that the question be now put."

For a moment there was a stunned silence on the Opposition side.

The Premier's words amounted to closure on the debate on second reading of Mr. Henry's bill. It meant that the Opposition members could not speak on the bill.

The Speaker started to put the question, when Mr. Macaulay rose to his feet.

"I appeal to the Prime Minister to cut out this dirty business," shouted Mr. Macaulay, leaning forward and speaking directly to Mr. Hepburn.

"Order, order!" reprimanded Speaker Hipel.

"You can put me in the tower or take me to Whitby, but I'm going to have my say," yelled Mr. Macaulay as he burst into a sensational defiance of Speaker Hipel's order to sit down.

"You change the rules in the middle of the game," shot back the former Highways Minister. "It is a rotten, dirty trick. You may be a dictator (addressing the Premier), but you can't do this to us—in the name of democracy."

From here on events moved with startling swiftness. The packed galleries saw and heard the fighting Conservative lash at the Government, even including the Speaker in his attack.

They had the thrill of seeing the slim but compactly built Sergeant-at-Arms perform a duty, which had, up till last night, been merely a faint possibility.

They leaned from their seats, as did every member of the House, to watch the Sergeant-at-Arms accost the still-shouting member, swing him on to the floor of the House, and escort him, still gesticulating, to the main doors and outside to the spacious corridor.