

# 'Big Business' Barbs Must End, Drew Warns

The now-famous Griffiths case made another appearance in the Legislature yesterday when both Premier George Drew and C.C.F. Leader E. B. Jolliffe defended their respective statements on the matter. At one stage Mr. Speaker warned that he would not put up with interruptions, and would adjourn the House if rulings were not obeyed.

The Premier, rising before the orders of the day, referred to a speech made at Cayuga by the Leader of the Opposition, in which it was charged that the Progressive Conservative Party had sold itself to big business, "body and soul." The time had come to put an end to such unwarranted statements, he declared. If there were an atom of truth in any of these statements neither he nor any member of the old parties would have a right to sit in the Legislature.

Mr. Jolliffe quoted from the Premier's remarks on the Griffiths case earlier in the session, and then answered them one by one. He said he had no reason to withdraw a single statement he had made during the Haldimand-Norfolk by-election, nor had he any reason to withdraw anything he said to the House with respect to the case. He said he was prepared to debate this and other issues at any time in the House.

## "Vulgar Personal Abuse."

"With respect to the facts in the Griffiths case, I believe an apology is due the House, but not from me," said Mr. Jolliffe. "It is most regrettable that the Prime Minister of the great Province of Ontario, in conducting political controversy with the Opposition, appears to be unable to rise above the level of vulgar personal abuse."

Earlier in his remarks Mr. Jolliffe complained of statements attributed to the Premier in *The Globe* and *Mail* in connection with an address at Dunnville Saturday night. It was a serious charge to say, as the Premier was reported to have said, that the Leader of the Opposition told the House a "deliberate falsehood" in speaking of the Griffiths case, said Mr. Jolliffe.

It was a matter of record that monopolistic corporations had made large contributions to the old political parties, said Mr. Jolliffe, and he believed the public should be informed of the sources of the financial strength so manifestly displayed by the two old parties at election time. He recalled that the Conservative group in the Legislature of 1923 opposed the Drury Government's suggestion that liquor contributions to political parties be banned.

## Desire to Misrepresent.

When the Opposition Leader concluded, the Premier rose and said that the statements of Mr. Jolliffe only confirmed the view that he desired to misrepresent the situation, and to further mislead the Legislature. The Premier then proceeded to answer the points raised by Mr. Jolliffe. At one point after getting Mr. Jolliffe's agreement on the date of the termination of the Griffiths lease, the Premier observed: "The Leader of the Opposition is cornered and admits—"

There was a chorus of interruptions from the C.C.F. benches, and Mr. Speaker threw out the warning that he would not countenance such

family, after buying a 40-acre farm a short distance away, divided the new premises into four apartments, and rented them to war workers. They continued to live on the old property and expected to stay there while drawing rent from the apartments.

"If the Leader of the Opposition expects to wring the hearts of the people with this story, he'd better get another case," the Premier said. "I repeat, the facts stand. The farm was like something in a story by Edgar Allan Poe. There was grass all over, and it was run down. If the Leader of the Opposition thinks it was a good farm, he had better talk to the member who sits two seats to the right (George Lockhart, Rainy River), who knows farming."

interruptions, and would adjourn the House if they persisted.

Mr. Jolliffe's claims with regard to the Griffiths case were, briefly: That the eviction of the Griffiths family and not the price paid was the issue; that the Griffiths were told by the Hydro Commission that only part of the property would be needed; that their cows were giving milk right up to the time of eviction; that the home was not unfit for human habitation, and that the farm was not derelict, but was being worked.

## Rented to War Workers.

Premier Drew said the Griffiths

March 21

## Seeds of 'Malice' Spiked by Drew

A blistering attack on "unwarranted statements which tend to undermine public confidence in these critical days" was made by Premier George Drew in the Legislature, in referring to speeches given by C.C.F. Leader E. B. Jolliffe. The Premier declared:

"Those who set out deliberately to undermine public confidence at this critical hour by spreading the corrosive and deadly poison of distrust, envy, hatred and malice, for the one purpose of advancing their own selfish interests, deserve only the loathing and contempt of all decent people who believe that we really are fighting as a nation to preserve freedom, honor, justice and truth."