

Duckworth So Inspired Nearly Earns Ejection

Up until yesterday afternoon at approximately 4:15 o'clock the member of the Ontario Legislature who would have been voted The Most Unlikely Member to be Ejected from the Chamber by Mr. Speaker would have been rotund, amiable William Duckworth, the Progressive Conservative member for Toronto-Dovercourt.

Concentration on what he was saying, which rendered him deaf to Mr. Speaker, brought Mr. Duckworth into imminent danger of being removed from the House. Or, so it seemed. The Toronto member was contributing his views to the debate on the coal shortage, and what he was saying was probably very interesting, but few could hear him. This was chiefly due to the

efforts of his colleagues to get him to sit down because Speaker Stewart wanted the floor for himself at the moment, and when the Speaker wants the floor every one else gives way.

But not Mr. Duckworth. He just kept on talking, and Speaker Stewart kept on telling him to sit down. Finally it dawned on Mr. Duckworth that he didn't have the right-of-way, and between that realization and a few tugs on his coat tails he was got off his feet.

Speaker Stewart directed a severe gaze at the penitent member. "I will have to ask you to leave the chamber if you don't respect the Chair," he admonished. "There is no shortage of fuel in this debate."

Earlier Mr. Duckworth heard himself named as chairman of the Art Committee of the House. He wanted to know if he had been chairman of this committee before.

"Is this committee going to function?" he queried.

Premier George A. Drew informed him that he had not been chairman before.

J. B. Salsberg (Lab.Prog., St. Andrew), who was also named to the Art Committee, gravely informed the House that it would be a privilege to serve under the member for Dovercourt.

"I'll be glad to be guided in matters of art by the honorable member," Mr. Salsberg said. "It will be quite an experience."

Mr. Duckworth directed a searching look at Mr. Salsberg, but the latter calmly gave his attention to another member, and Mr. Duckworth said no more.

Plan Amendment To Govern Mode In Overseas Vote

The Ontario Legislature yesterday gave second reading to the bill which will give the direct ballot to the active service men and women from this Province. Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell, who sponsored the legislation, told the House that an amendment would be offered in committee stage to narrow the powers given the Chief Election Officer in the matter of formulating the regulations under the act.

Mr. Blackwell said he is in agreement with C.C.F. Leader E. B. Jolliffe that these powers are too wide, and he felt that this amendment would answer that objection. The Attorney-General explained that in everything but one particular the projected act followed the Dominion statute, and he added that the Government would enact the regulations by Order-in-Council.

The amendment to be offered in committee stage will make it necessary for the Chief Election Officer to say over his signature that he has consulted with the Chief Election Officer at Ottawa and that the regulations, as far as is possible, follow the Dominion regulations.

Another amendment makes provision for the proxy vote of prisoners of war. This is the same provision as is embodied in the Dominion statute.

Mr. Jolliffe complimented the Attorney-General for the fairness and efficiency with which he presided over the Legislative committee which dealt with the election acts. He was in agreement with the principle of the bill before the House, but he felt that the regulations should be enacted now, and not later by Order-in-Council. In suggesting this course, Mr. Jolliffe said he quite appreciated the circumstances of the case.

The new act applies only to general elections and is to remain in effect for six months after the termination of the war.