

March 13

Queries Whether Bracken Advises 'Certain People'

Joseph B. Salsberg (L.P., St. Andrew) asked in the Legislature yesterday whether John Bracken, National Progressive Conservative Leader, was being retained as an adviser to "certain people." His question was directed at Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell during committee consideration of the new Election Act. The section dealing with financial contributions was under review at the time.

"The best way to get an answer to that is to get some one in the Federal House to take it up," said Mr. Blackwell.

Mr. Salsberg previously had declared that "tens of thousands of dollars contributed to slush funds are never accounted for," and he believed that in the interests of the public the House should get to the root of it.

Employs Specialists

"It is known that the Progressive Conservative Party employs an ever-increasing number of specialists," said Mr. Salsberg. "There are specialists on labor, on social law, on this and that. Will this provision before the House enable the public to know where the money is coming from to pay these staffs?"

"The National Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party is also an adviser to certain people, I am informed," continued the member. "If he is, I think the people engaging political leaders as advisers would undoubtedly wield a great influence on the policies of those parties. It is a case of utilizing great wealth as a means of influencing political policies. I am sure that this Government would be willing to enact the best possible legislation to ensure that the public will be protected."

"Is this a vote of confidence?" queried Premier Drew.

Sense of Humor

"I am glad the Premier still retains his sense of humor," answered Mr. Salsberg. "I belong to a party that has to collect pennies and dimes. Our campaigns are financed by the workers."

"There was laughter when Mr. Blackwell observed that he found it hard to believe that the member for St. Andrew had progressed as far as he had on nickels and dimes.

"If Sir Herbert Holt had his life to live over, he would not aspire to be a great financial leader," said the Attorney-General. "He would want to become a labor organizer."

Mr. Salsberg expanded on his theme and finally Mr. Blackwell said: "As Attorney-General I say that there are no means of deciding, or any complicated act that will ensure knowing whence Mr. Tim Buck gets his money."

"Is the law sufficient to tell us where the National Progressive Conservative Leader gets his money and how much?" retorted Mr. Salsberg.

The Attorney-General closed the discussion by suggesting to the member that he get some one in the House of Commons to raise the question.

Liquor Board Salaries

Judge W. T. Robb, chairman of the Liquor Control Authority Board, receives \$4,500 a year salary and the two members of the board, W. T. Nugent and J. F. Reid, get \$4,000 each. A return giving this information was tabled in the Legislature yesterday. The question of the salaries paid the board was asked by Roland Patterson (Lib., Grey North).