

Friday, Feb. 18th

"Laughed and Laughed."

"My honorable friend," retorted Mr. Ferguson, "has laughed and laughed until he has laughed himself out of the confidence of the general public. It is my honorable friend's misfortune that his methods have landed him just where he is, and he will never get any further than that."

"The Prime Minister is in his usual vein," said Mr. Raney, smiling.

"On the usual subject and the usual gentleman," replied the Premier.

This brought Mr. Raney to his feet. Mr. Ferguson's remarks, he declared, were "far beneath the dignity of the Prime Minister of Ontario."

"I'll be quite prepared to have the public make a comparison," Mr. Ferguson retorted. "If any one was guilty of unbecoming conduct in this or any other Assembly, my honorable friend was in references to Bishop Fallon, Sir Allen Aylesworth, Dr. Cody and others."

Mr. Raney, he continued, seemed worried that the Government control bill would not be entirely in the public interest.

To Abide by Promises.

"This Government," he went on, "has a responsibility and it isn't leaving any vulnerable spot in its armor for my honorable friend to puncture. When the control legislation is brought down, it will be in accordance with the representations on the public platforms, and the undertakings given to the public in the election campaign.

"And," he emphasized, "if we have to stay here to the first of June, that legislation is going to be thoroughly discussed."

Then he turned his guns on Mr. Sinclair. The Liberal Leader had compared the members to a jury on the liquor question. "The public was the jury," said Mr. Ferguson, "I wonder where my honorable friend was on Dec. 1, when the jury gave its verdict."

Detained at Oshawa.

"I understand," said Mr. Sinclair ironically, "that the Premier got off the train at Oshawa on the night of the election to ask of my welfare."

"I did not," retorted Mr. Ferguson. "Not that I'm afraid of Oshawa. But I was busy reading delightful messages from all over the Province."

He continued to refer to Mr. Sinclair's attitude when the Homuth motion for a cut in excise on spirits was considered in the House recently. Mr. Sinclair protested that it was out of order in the debate to refer to this matter of a motion that had been decided by the House. He thought there should be a ruling from the Speaker.

Mr. Ferguson replied that he was not dealing with the motion, but the Liberal Leader's stand. The Speaker said nothing. And the Premier went on. A moment or two later he reiterated his remarks made on the subject of the excise reduction.

Better Forum at Ottawa.

"Doesn't the Prime Minister think he'd have a better forum a year from now," interjected Mr. Sinclair, "when he leads the Opposition at Ottawa?"

"You're the one that says I'm going," Mr. Ferguson replied, smiling.

Then he went on to conclude his remarks and wind up the debate by reviewing the Government's attitude regarding the Raney amendment.

The vote was then taken.

Baird First Speaker.

W. A. Baird (Conservative, Toronto High Park), a new member in the House, led off when the debate was resumed yesterday. He spoke briefly, and his remarks were chiefly a eulogy of the Conservative party and the Ferguson Administration. Referring to the liquor question, he reviewed his own stand in the matter, telling how, after supporting the O.T.A. since its inception, he had become a Government-control man.

William Newman (Liberal, North Victoria) made a distinct impression upon the House with a vigorous appeal in the interests of his riding. Mr. Newman advocated more and better roads in his district as a greater stimulus to tourist traffic; the restoration of the old \$40 wolf bounty, and the setting of the bass season, in his "land of 555 named lakes," at June 15-July 1, or "even a few days earlier," with a view to increasing the numbers of this species of game fish.

Mr. Newman earned the applause of the Government benchers when, in speaking of the liquor question, he said that, while remaining true to his convictions on the O.T.A., he was determined to respect the new law and to have the people of his riding, in so far as he was able, respect it to the same extent.

Flood of Private Bills.

When the proceedings opened members turned loose on the House a flood of private bills for first reading. Of these measures those of particular interest were: An act respecting the Board of Education of Toronto, by which the board would be empowered to carry its own insurance; an act respecting the Township of York, and one respecting East York, both bills to validate by-laws and provide for the election of School Trustees in the same manner and on the same day as the Municipal Council; and a measure to provide for the taking of a new vote on Church Union by the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in Wick, as constituted on July 19, 1924. Just before adjourning the House resolved itself in committee and passed bills that had been left in abeyance for slight amendments. The House rose at 5.30 p.m.

An Odious Comparison

Premier Ferguson cracked another one in the Legislature yesterday.

William Newman, Liberal member for North Victoria, had been appealing, during the debate, for restoration of the old wolf bounty as a means of checking the animal's increasing numbers. Referring to the wariness of the wolf, Mr. Newman said:

"He is a man of the woods. He hides and protects himself well."

"He must be a Liberal," ventured Premier Ferguson from across the Chamber.