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cause it concerned the same matter dealt with previously.

Mr. Doherty then moved a straight want-of-confidence motion and sought to reintroduce the subject. In stentorian tones he demanded if a matter that had been made the subject of petition to the Speaker by the 17 members of his group and Messrs. Callan and Heenan, Labor members, was not fit subject to occupy the Legislature in the consideration of the Address. Mr. Speaker ruled that the petition which Mr. Doherty had sought to introduce and read was for the consideration of the Speaker only; that it should be tabled, and it would have his best subsequent consideration.

Gains Some Liberal Support.

Again there was appeal from the ruling of the Chair, J. W. Widdifield, Progressive member for North Ontario, being the appellant, and this time Mr. Doherty's men found three Liberal supporters in A. Belanger, Russell; E. Proulx, Prescott, and H. Fisher, Ottawa. The Chair was sustained on this division by 79 to 20.

Crowded galleries and chamber floor witnessed one of the oddest Legislature afternoons in many years, and one which, with its two appeals from the Speaker's rulings, probably set a record. Hundreds more, it was stated by officials, were unable to gain admittance when the doors were closed to prevent serious overcrowding of the chamber facilities.

Promptly upon the calling of the orders of the day, Mr. Doherty arose in his place with a petition in his hand, signed by his 19 supporters. He had hardly commenced when A. C. Lewis, Conservative member for Northeast Toronto, raised the point of order that a question of privilege was debatable only at the moment of its being taken. Inasmuch, he said, as Mr. Doherty had not spoken to his point on Thursday last when he gave notice, he was now out of order. Premier Ferguson came to Mr. Doherty's momentary rescue when he said that it was the Government's desire to give the fullest freedom to Mr. Doherty, and he asked Mr. Lewis to withdraw his objection. This Mr. Lewis did.

Demands Rights of Opposition.

Mr. Doherty thanked the Prime Minister, and proceeded to explain his point of privilege. "I am the Leader of the party in this House," he said, "which up until July of last year constituted the Government of this Province. Our claim is that under the laws of this Province we are an Opposition party, and should be recognized as such." He went on to claim all the rights and privileges of official Leader of the Opposition.

Premier Ferguson, who had rescued Mr. Doherty only a moment before, then proceeded to dislodge him by the point of order that the question he raised was not one of privilege. "Not," said Mr. Ferguson, "that I desire to balk his effort."

Mr. Raney—Of course not. (Progressive laughter and applause.)

Mr. Ferguson—Perhaps I will smile as well later on. Perhaps I shall get just as much enjoyment out of this as honorable members opposite will. But, coming into a new House, and finding that my honorable friends wish strict adherence to its rules, perhaps it is well they should learn a rule or two at the outset.

Speaker Thompson ruled that if a question affected a member's personal honor it could be taken up under privilege, but the matter sought to be introduced by Mr. Doherty, he said, was clearly not of that character. There was a proper way of introducing it. And if it were introduced as a question of privilege there could be no discussion. "The honorable member," he added, "is not going to take up the status of groups and parties as a personal grievance, and I rule that the Prime Minister is perfectly correct."

Argument Not Permitted.

Mr. Doherty proceeded to discuss the situation, but was not heard amid Conservative applause.

"Do I understand," he asked, "that you make your ruling without permitting us to make any argument?"

Mr. Ferguson—Surely. "After hearing the Prime Minister?" put in Mr. Raney.

Speaker Thompson reiterated his decision not to "sit here and listen to the history of groups and their troubles."

Mr. Doherty—A clearly stated authority—

Mr. Ferguson—My honorable friend has made a ruling. It is not debatable. The only privilege he has is to appeal against the ruling.

Mr. Doherty—I understand that if this matter is one that concerns me personally I have a right to discuss it? Most surely! I come into this House as a representative of a

constituency of this Province. I come into this House as a member of a party, and I am, by the Prime Minister, relegated to a position that I should not be in. Is it not a matter that concerns me personally? (Loud Conservative laughter.) Is it not a matter that concerns every individual in this party? I claim that the subject is one that concerns me in my position in this House as representative of the constituency of East Kent and is a matter that concerns 19 members of this House.

Speaker Thompson said, "I do not so construe it," and observed that he did not wish any further discussion.

Raney Takes Up the Cudgels.

Mr. Raney sought to ask a question, and M. M. MacBride, Independent Labor member for Brant, moved that the orders of the day be now read. Mr. Raney proceeded, however: "Do I understand the Speaker to rule that when the Prime Minister of this Province rises to a point of order and debates it the point of order is going to be decided by the Speaker without giving anybody else an opportunity to be heard? Because—"

Speaker Thompson—I have made my decision and if the honorable member is not satisfied he has his recourse to appeal. In the meantime the decision stands.

Amid the thunder of Conservative applause, Mr. Raney said, "We will appeal, Mr. Speaker," and the Progressives clapped their desks in unison with the Conservatives, the Liberals remaining interested spectators. The Conservatives and Liberals voted solidly to sustain the chair, M. M. MacBride, Independent Labor, voting with them. The Progressives were a unit on the other side, Messrs. Callan and Heenan, Laborites, voting with them.

Springs Amendment to the Address.

An hour afterward, when the House and galleries had settled down to a quiet and orderly afternoon, the argument broke out again. Mr. Doherty had followed Mr. Sinclair in speaking in the debate on the Address in reply. He introduced an amendment to the Address, which read:

"It is our duty respectfully to submit to your Honor that the Prime Minister has not the approval of the House in the attempt he has made to curtail the rights and privileges of the members of this House."

When he picked up his petition, which was a lengthy and strongly worded criticism of the non-recognition of the Progressives, Premier Ferguson raised the point of order that the Prime Minister had no control of the situation complained of; that the control was in the hands of the Speaker, and that Mr. Doherty's action constituted an affront to Hon. Mr. Thompson.

Ruled Out of Order.

Speaker Thompson—I don't see that the Prime Minister in any way tried to restrain the rights and privileges of the members. The amendment is not a matter of fact so far as I know. I rule the matter is out of order.

Mr. Raney (amid cries of "Order!" from Conservatives)—Do I understand that the Speaker refuses to hear the complaint of any member of this House against the Prime Minister?

Speaker Thompson—You can put the motion on the order paper and discuss it until you are tired.

Mr. Doherty accepted the position, and promptly substituted an amendment that his Honor be advised that "his present advisers have not the confidence of this House." He sought to bring in the petition on this amendment. Loud Conservative laughter greeted the motion, and R. L. Brackin, K.C., Liberal member for West Kent, raised another shout by calling, "Carried."

Premier Ferguson—Mr. Speaker, you have ruled that the subject matter which it is sought to discuss is out of order; it is an indignity toward the Chair to attempt by circuitous methods or subterfuge to get away from your ruling.

Mr. Doherty—I have moved an amendment, and I claim the right to speak to it.

Speaker Puts Foot Down.

Speaker Thompson—I suggest that this subject matter be laid on the table and brought up in the proper way. It is not going to be discussed today. That is my ruling again.

Mr. Doherty pressed his case, and Speaker Thompson reiterated several times his refusal to permit, under any of the suggested headings, discussion of Mr. Doherty's position in the House, and Mr. Raney, amid Conservative laughter and cries of "Order!" again arose to his feet, demanding to know if the Legislature had got to the point where 19 members could not appeal to the Speaker.

"Do I understand," he pressed, "that the Speaker will not permit a petition to him by 19 members of this House to be read in this House?"

Speaker Thompson—The point is that the petition should be laid on the table, and not handed to me personally.

The discussion raged back and forth until Mr. Widdifield appealed from the Chair's ruling again.

The "Progressive" petition, which is in the hands of the Speaker, covers eight long pages of foolscap, and is presented under the following sub-headings:

"The Prime Minister's action is in flagrant defiance of well-settled principals of constitutional government."

"The Prime Minister's action is contrary to a law of the Province, of which the Prime Minister himself was a beneficiary for four years, while he was the Leader of a minority Opposition in the Legislature."

"The Prime Minister's action is in negation of representative government."

"The Prime Minister's action is an heretofore unheard-of affront to the honorable office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

"The Prime Minister's action is arbitrary and tyrannical."