

Last Week in the Legislature

TORONTO, April 28.—Outstanding political event of the week was not in the Legislature at all, though there were some high spots there, too. It came off down in U. F. O. headquarters, when Premier Drury met a full gathering at the executive and at a lengthy conference, which must have been highly interesting, agreed to drop his broadening-out policy. J. J. Morrison's opposition to co-operation or fusion with other parties is evidently fairly representative of the viewpoint of the provincial executive. It was realized that it would never do for Mr. Drury to go out as leader of the party, seeking co-operation of forces outside the U.F.O., when the executive is not prepared to accept such. The premier was forced to give in and an official statement issued afterward declares strongly against fusion with any other political party. In all this somewhat lengthy pronouncement there is no exception made in the case of Labor. As the U.F.O. is altogether likely to be a minority group in the next Legislature there will no longer be need for a coalition. As an indication of who's boss Mr. Drury himself issued a statement on Friday explaining that while "there may have been differences of opinion" between himself and officers of the U.F.O., these were not broad matters of policy and administration, and that Mr. Morrison, in expressing his own views, and those of others, had a perfect right to do so. It is reported that even this submissive statement was carried down to U.F.O. headquarters by Hon. Dr. Grant for the official O. K. before being given out.

This enforced truce, or armistice, though given out more as a permanent treaty, was, of course, brought about chiefly by the necessities of the campaign. Going into the fight in rival camps under the Drury and Morrison flags the U.F.O. could not have hoped for even the "strong representation" in the House which is now its modest ambition. The development was undoubtedly aided, too, by the announcement of the Liberals at a Provincial gathering here this week, that the party proposed to fight under its own banner and eschew co-operation with others. There was really nothing left for Mr. Drury to do but make the best terms possible with J. J., the modern John Hampden, and his Roundheads and cease flirting with the Liberal cavaliers, for the time being at any rate. Time is the essence of any contract and it remains to be seen whether or not Mr. Drury will stay put. It will be remarkable indeed, if he does not during the campaign get carried away with himself and promulgate once more the heretical doctrine of "citizen consciousness" and the co-operation of "like-minded people" with the farmers. For it may well be accepted that if the executive in three or four hours altered Mr. Drury's plan of procedure for the next two months they did not change his mind for him.

Meanwhile "Andy" Hicks, U.F.O. member for South Huron, though not much in the House of late, is hovering about, dropping bombs like a hostile airman. Stung, perhaps, by the premier's recent challenge to him to "go ahead and publish" anything he liked, Mr. Hicks on the day of the U.F.O. executive meeting and Mr. Drury's surrender gave an interview in which he recalled that the prime minister at a party caucus—there is a dispute about the date—had asked permission to go to Ottawa and join the King Cabinet. On another occasion, discussing reorganization of his own Cabinet with a few U.F.O. members, Mr. Drury, according to Mr. Hicks, said that he would like to take in strong business men from outside the House altogether, and mentioned R. J. Fleming, Hon. N. W. Rowell, and even Sir William Hearst. These were to displace Hon. Peter Smith and other ministers. In brief, the late whip declares the premier remains "Liberal at the heart rather than U.F.O." and that he has placed the United Farmers before the country in a position of enmity towards hydro, which is not its true attitude. Mr. Drury and other members concerned having issued a point blank denial of both incidents in almost all details, Mr. Hicks now proposes to reiterate his charges in the House next Tuesday.

As a matter of fact, J. Walter Curry, Liberal member for Southeast Toronto, seat "B", is a living proof that there was, is, and will be later, if circumstances are favorable, co-operation between a section of his party and those who follow Mr. Drury. He has been a consistent and persistent supporter of Messrs. Drury and Raney and all their works

during this session at any rate, and at the present moment is in hot water because he went out into Peel the other day and lent his influence to prevent Liberals of that county from opposing the U.F. candidate, Mr. Orr. There has been a row over it, with the possibility now that the Liberals will yet put up a candidate. The idea was that it would be better to help the Drury candidate's chances than to have a three-cornered contest, in which Major T. L. Kennedy, the Conservative member, would be certain to win. But Liberal officials do not seem to have been party to the deal and Mr. Curry is being criticized by all except the faithful Toronto Star, which has worked long and ingeniously toward Liberal co-operation with Mr. Drury and as a result of this week's developments is very much up in the air. Rumor has long connected Mr. Curry with one of the vacant positions in the gift of the Government. To-day he announced he would not be a candidate for re-election.

What about the Conservatives? They seem to be "all set" for the campaign and the only party that did not need to be patched up and tied together before entering the race. Events of the week suit them very well. Hon. Howard Ferguson has far more candidates in the field than either of the other leaders and the list of nominating conventions stretches ahead almost continuously for a month. It is conceded in virtually all quarters that Mr. Ferguson will lead the largest group and Conservative members who have been about the province declare the party will have a majority over all in the next Legislature. Certainly it is most desirable that a Government should not only be in office, but have power to carry on without being hanged, as the Drury administration has been.

Following a conference of the three party leaders this week the Government withdrew the combines bill, the measure for regulation of wells, and the land titles legislation. Hon. Mr. Raney managed to get his blue sky bill through committee with the exception of a half dozen contentious clauses. It's a rather important exception and the outcome is still problematical. Hartley Dewart, Hon. Mr. Ferguson and other lawyer members are highly critical, and Northern Ontario, in spite of certain concessions, seems to be apprehensive. The order paper still runs about 25 pages and there may be other measures dropped before prorogation, which will evidently come on Friday.

NORTH GREY CONVENTION DATES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED

The near approach of the elections, now about eight weeks away, has caused a stir in local political circles, and two conventions, Liberal and Conservative, are announced, says The Owen Sound Sun Times. The U.F.O.-Labor will probably set a date at a meeting on Saturday afternoon.

The Conservative convention will be the first of the three to be held, the new date for it being Saturday, May 5, at the City Hall, Owen Sound. They will have an outside speaker here for the convention.

The Liberals will hold their convention in the City Hall, Owen Sound on Saturday, May 12. This was decided on at a meeting held on Friday night. A prominent Liberal speaker will be secured to address the convention.

The U.F.O. Liberal organization will probably set a date at a meeting Saturday afternoon and it is just possible that their convention will be held between the dates of the other two parties.

It is more than probable that there will be a three-cornered fight for the North Grey seat. The Conservatives are sure to bring out a candidate at their convention and the Liberals will probably have one in the field a week later.

FORMER GLENELG WOMAN WAS KILLED BY TRAIN

Last week we referred to the death of Mrs. John Allan at Long Beach, California. This week through the thoughtfulness of Mr. Joseph Lindsay of Superior, Wisconsin, we are able to give fuller particulars. The following is reproduced from The Press, Long Beach California, under date of April 15:

"Mrs. Margaret Jane Allen, age 67, residing at 3005 American avenue, was killed almost instantly at 3.09 o'clock yesterday afternoon when a Pacific Electric train on the Newport line struck her while she was walking along the track between American avenue and Elm avenue in Willowville.

"Carried 200 feet on the fender of the two car train, Mrs. Allen suffered two broken legs, broken collar bones and head injuries. She died while being placed in the J. J. Mottel ambulance a few minutes after the accident. Dr. W. B. Hill pronounced her dead at Seaside hospital.

"The train which struck her was in charge of Conductor T. E. Dunnegan, 406 Central avenue, Balboa, and Motorman C. J. Butterworth, 511 Central avenue, Balboa.

"For two hours the body was unidentified. John Allen, widower, heard two newsboys discussing the accident while returning to his home more than an hour after Mrs. Allen died. From the description the boys gave of the injured woman Mr. Allen suspected it might be his wife. Accompanied by Detective Sergeants H. Mozley and Sam Wingfield, he went to the Mottel undertaking parlor where he identified the body.

"Mrs. Allen was carrying a loaf of bread after having walked to the Burnett station on the Pacific Electric right of way. She was returning to her home and the train struck her as she was travelling in the same direction.

"Picked up by the fender and dropped into the fold of the protection on the front end of the car, Mrs. Allen was found with arms crossed and in a dying condition when the train was halted.

"Besides her husband, Mrs. Allen leaves a stepson, Dr. Charles A. Allen, 247 Arlington.

"An inquest will be held Monday afternoon. Funeral arrangements await the inquest."

As was stated in The Chronicle last week, Mrs. Allen was buried at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

There may be germs in the kiss of a pretty girl, but no matter. No germ could survive a kick like that.

O.M.L. WILL OFFER PRIZES TO ONTARIO SCHOOL CHILDREN

One hundred and forty cash prizes totalling \$200.00 have been offered by the Ontario Motor League as prizes to a safety essay on "How Children May Help to Avoid Motor Accidents." The Ontario Safety League will conduct this competition for the Ontario Motor League and the school children of the province will be asked to contribute essays on this subject.

The "Safety Essay Competition" last year resulted in the drawing of the attention of thousands of school children in all parts of the Province to the dangers of the road and gave them a thorough lesson in avoiding automobile accidents. The success of last year's competition prompted the Ontario Motor League to offer prizes again this year. The present competition is to be conducted on similar lines to last year's.

The rules, announced this week by the League, are:

1. Any school child in Ontario may compete.
2. The competition may be either prose or verse, and must be written in English. If prose, it must consist of not more than 150 words. If in verse, it must be confined to 16 lines.
3. The composition must be the own work of the pupil submitting it, and in the pupil's own handwriting.
4. The composition must be written on ruled paper, with a margin on left side, written in ink, on one side of the paper only, and confined to one sheet.
5. Neatness, spelling and general composition will be taken into consideration in awarding the prizes.
6. The full name, age, name of

school and street address of the pupil must be written at the bottom of the paper.

7. The composition must be confined to one subject, "How Children May Help to Avoid Motor Accidents."

8. The contest will close May 15, 1923.

9. The decision of the judges shall be final.

10. All papers are to be handed to the teacher, who will send them to the Principal, to be forwarded to the Ontario Safety League.

Seventy prizes are offered.

11. There will be two classes in the prizes offered: (a) scholars of 12 years and under; (b) scholars of 13 years and over.

The 70 prizes in each class will be: 1, \$10; 2 and 3, \$5 each; 4 to 7, \$3 each; 8 to 12, \$2 each; 13 to 70, \$1 each.

The prize money will be forwarded to the winning contestants, June 11, 1923.

Very valuable results were attained last year, and efforts are being made this year to have teachers of classes prescribe the subject for composition at some time during the period of the competition. Such a procedure, it is felt, would materially enhance the value of the lesson

which the League is endeavoring to teach to the children.

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