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Hon. G. Howard Ferguson Attacks Government At Banquet in City.

FIRST CAMPAIGN SHOT

Accuses Premier of Planning "Scandalous Piece of Political Trickery."

Launching a fusillade of anathema and denunciation with all the exaggerated emphasis, of which he is a past master, the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson at the Conservative Club banquet last night, plowed lustily into the ranks of the Drury governinto the ranks of the Drury govern-ment, and thus fired the first shot in the provincial Conservative cam-paign for political laurels.

paign for political laurels.

Mr. Ferguson and his able henchman, W. F. Nickle, M.P.P., were in rare form, and the verbal barrage they directed at the enemy included every variety of political munition, from charges of dishonesty to flagrant disregard of the public weal. The Conservative leader declared he knew on irreproachable authority. The Conservative leader declared he ladministration.

The timber commission was framed, that Wellington Hay, Liberal, chief, and Premier Drury were furthering a disreputable political game that aimed at the destruction of the Conservative party. Further, he knew Mr. Drury was considering a plan of proportional representation for the oncoming election, which, if carried the Drury government before attain-

Coal Scuttle Cost \$200.

The enthusiasm of his audience seemed to urge Mr. Ferguson on to heroic efforts. The alleged extravagance, incompetency and hypocrisy of the United Farmers' Party were laid bare with relentless hand. He even went so far as to direct the sharp pricks of criticism at Mr. Drury for ordering a coal scuttle that cost \$200. He instanced as a typical example of wastefulness the action of the minister of mines in erecting a private bathroom for himself with moneys extorted from the people. But the greater part of his attention was devoted to a keen analytical survey of the errors of the Drury regime in connection with administration extravagance and dishonest appropriation of the people's bank account.

Mr. Ferguson contrasted his own lily-white record of integrity with that of the present premier, and by the time he finshed, the vision of a rather mild Mr. Drury was transformed into that of a brigand of Jesse James vintage in the guise of a poli-

formed into that of a brigand of Jesse James vintage in the guise of a poli-tician. The only legislation he would give the farmers' party one iota of credit for was the rural credits measure, and even that must needs be in operation for some years before its efficiency could be estimated.

London Conservatives. He recalled a Conservative city, and its general the hard road he had to furrow three provisions represent a piece of intolyears ago when the party was in the erable chicanery and trickery. He last stage of disintegration. Things were different now. The party was not dead, as his adversaries would like the public to believe. He was women should be better acquainted with provincial politics, because pro-

Pregnant With Clouds norizon of this province has become pregnant with ominous clouds," said Mr. Ferguson. "Mr. Drury has departed from the fundamentals of responsible government. When one casts his eye over the records of Hanna, Whitney and Hearst, he is appalled with the comparison of present-day political practice. Then solidarity, idealism, economy and realization of responsibility were the vehicles on which the party rode to power and maintained the confidence of the electors. The Drury government has sarrified every vestige of ment of the unfortunately resulted in temporary disorganization of the party, which accounted for the crush-ing defeats in both provincial and federal arenas.

He stated that the King government owed its supremacy to Quebec and the Progressives. Quebec was powerful because of its racial exploitation at a time when Canada required its virile youth to crush Germany. The Conservative party had been forgotten by friends for base reasons, and an alien group sprang pregnant with ominous clouds," said Mr. Ferguson. "Mr. Drury has deof the electors. The Drury government has satrified every vestige of self-respect. It presents the strange spectacle of a group of legislators with no other ambition than to be-

cloud issues. It is the most irre-sponsible government that ever had its fingers upon the public purse.
"The activities of the Drury aggregation have been limited to a grati-IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER fication of a craze for commissions. There have been no less than 28 commissions formed within three years, and all have cost money. Their func-New York, Feb. 9 .- The freighter tion has been unprofitable and use-Winnebago, which called for help on less. When I heard Hon. Walter Rollo, minister of labor, had received peti-Thursday off the French coast, retions from the unemployed I asked him what steps he intended taking ported yesterday to the Foreign Transport and Mercantile Company that she was in no immediate danger, and expected to reach Brest tominister of public works.

The message said the freighter's hand and steam gear had been seriously damaged. "What is your duty as a minister?" Mr. Ferguson claimed that U. F. O. ministers were all shirking responsibility, that they had transformed cosmos into chaos, that Hay and Drury have a distinct understanding, and that when the day of election comes both will divide the spoils, leaving Conservatives out in the cold. Conscientious Liberals the cold. Conscientious Liberals, however, will not sell their heritage for a mess of pottage, he declared.

Voiced Disapproval. staunch disapproval of group govern-ment, and stated when he becomes prime minister he would like a comfortable majority. All Drury legis-lation has been patchwork. Ministers

All the Theatres

Wednesday, Thursday and Fri-day—Charles Dickens' story, "Oliver Twist," featuring Jackie

GRAND.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday—Eugene O'Brien in "John Smith." Vaudeville.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday—"Quincy Adams Sawyer," with noted cast of picture stars.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday— "One-Eighth Apache," starring Roy Stewart.

ownership. He cited instances of gross extravagance in the existence of useless commissions, taking a fling t the Gregory board, which, he claimed, has not been able to show one example of inefficiency or misexpenditure in regard to the Chippawa power administration.

proportional representation for the oncoming election, which, if carried out, would be "the most scandalous piece of political trickery ever perpetrated in the Province of Ontario."

Coal Scuttle Cost \$200.

Coal Scuttle Cost \$200.

Suddence Sudd

"It is remarkable," opined Mr. Ferguson, "that heredity has such a re-morseless influence."

Restricted Life.

He claimed the Drury clique had placed innumerable Puritanical restrictions on every phase of life. They had practically exterminated in-Mr. Ferguson said he has seldom dividual initiative and resourcefulness of impressed as with the recepness. The new distribution bill would been so impressed as with the recep-tion accorded him yesterday by loyal cut down representation in Toronto provisions represent a piece of intoltory for the forces of Conservatism at the coming election.

W. F. Nickle, M.P.P., of Kingston particularly pleased with the presence of ladies in the gathering, and stated the Provincial House, was accorded a great reception. He dealt exhaustively with the misgovernment of vircial legislation was intimately connected with woman's sphere in laudable achievements of Conservatism since confederation. Its prose-cution of the war was the greatest "Within three years the political contribution to national accomplishment ever made by a Canadian government, but unfortunately resulted

reasons, and an alien group sprang nto prominence in the character of

into prominence in the character of a Farmers' party.

The asserted the the Farmer-Labor coalition of the Ontario house should not be entrusted with the reins of autocracy any longer. Their one object was to staye off defeat that they may continue to many the sweets of may continue to enjoy the sweets of office. While Conservatives were endeavoring to maintain the position of Ontario as the premier province of the Dominion, the Drury government was "bucking and jumping over the races.'

His Clutch Slipping.

"This is a bucolic metaphor," Mr. Nickle explained, as his audience failed to grasp the interpretation. "It means that Drury is working on to mitigate the condition. He answered he would do nothing and had forwarded the complaints to the slipping. One of the first things the premier said he would do was abolish "What is your duty as a minister?"
asked.
"I hand out doles when there is no employment for anybody," he replied.
Mr. Ferguson claimed that I. F. consistently desired to abolish such appeals, thus seeking to sever one of the ties that bind us with our mother country. He also wished to abolish government house, but after experience, in Pouliment had seeking to the service of ence in Parliament, had concluded that the antique system is best."

Mr. Nickle instanced the present government's inconsistency by its once-boasted antipathy to commissions while sanctioning commissions of every sort that were a source of much expense to the public. He went on to summarize the needless expen-The Conservative chief voiced ditures in the way of solicitors' salaries and immense costs of highway construction. The system of bookkeeping employed by the farmer party, he said, was sheer dishonesty, and outlined the methods used.

He criticized the novel manner in which the government was said to have overcome the possibility of a revelation by charging liabilities to extraordinary expenses. They had covered up as capital \$800,000 which should have been charged as interest against capital. Hon. Peter Smith, he claimed, included public Smith, he claimed, included public buildings in capital when he took office, and when the opposition pointed to a discrepancy of five million dollars in his balance he admitted it had been "a mistake of the clerk." This, Mr. Nickle illustrated, as a typical example of the financial department's "husinesslike" methods partment's "businesslike" methods.
"I met a man the other day who was shearing sheep from the tail to the head," said Mr. Nickle, "and I asked him why he didn't start at the head first. He replied that since voting for the farmer government he couldn't look man or beast in the

E. R. Dennis, who introduced Mr.

The Necessity of Home Sewing Has Suggested Dressmaking Classes of Instruction The scarcity of dressmakers, which is becoming more acute each season, is making it almost imperative that women should know the art of dressmaking and be able to make their own dresses. We have arranged this three weeks' special course of instrution, realizing that there are hundreds of women in this city who would enjoy the fascination of making their own clothes, and planning their own individual

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E. R. Dennis, who introduced Mr. Ferguson, said the Conservative leader possessed distinct qualities of leadership and a personality that inspires affection. He thought the for nearly four years. Adelaide Claytholic of the Conservative convention in Toronto had been amply vindicated, and looked forward to seeing Mr. Nickle in the attorney-general's chair next election.

M. Harold Barnum introduced Mr. telligence that sparkled from every