

THRASHING OUT ONTARIO'S BUDGET

Legislature Makes Day's Progress With the Debate.

TO COMPENSATE WORKMEN.

Radical Amendments Proposed by Mr. Proudfoot.

Liberal Member Will Introduce Important Labor Measure Together With an Amendment to Abolish the Three-fifths Requirement — New Telephone Bill Promised by Mr. Sam. Charters—Mr. McEwing Scores Varsity Students.

The Legislature contented itself yesterday with making a day's progress in the Budget debate, which threatens to go over into next week. For the Opposition, Mr. J. McEwing (West Wellington) launched a vigorous criticism on over-expenditure, while Dr. A. MacKay (North Oxford) submitted a series of suggestions prompted by his medical experience. Referring to the accident to the daughter of the Provincial Secretary, who was bitten by a stray dog on Monday afternoon, he deplored that Ontario was without an institute for the treatment of such cases, and patients, in consequence, had to be taken to the United States. Messrs. R. A. Norman (Prince Edward) and A. Ferguson (South Simcoe) who spoke from the Government benches, were satisfied with a rehearsal of their campaign speeches. All the speakers expressed sympathy with Hon. A. J. Matheson, the Provincial Treasurer, in his accident.

Workmen's Compensation Act.

A large legislative order was promised by Mr. Wm. Proudfoot (Centre Huron), who gave notice of four bills, three of which are amendments. The new bill, of which he gave notice, is a workman's compensation act, founded upon the British measure. The amendments proposed are also important. The temperance organizations make their annual effort in a bill to repeal the three-fifths local option clause and substitute a majority vote. A second bill purports to give county councils the right to fix their own salaries, while the last measure places an obligation on the township municipalities to bear the cost of the local grant to rural schools.

New Telephone Bill.

Mr. S. Charters (Peel) has given notice that he has under preparation a bill entitled "The Ontario Telephone Act." This measure promises to take new and radical lines, but the member for Peel, when interviewed by *The Globe*, was not prepared at present to make its contents public.

The Growing Expenditure.

Mr. J. McEwing (West Wellington) in re-opening the budget debate expressed his regret that the Hon. Mr. Matheson was not present to hear the discussion on the budget and hoped that he would soon be back in his place in the House. In proceeding to a criticism of the Treasurer's statement, Mr. McEwing referred to the great increase in expenditure during the past five years. "In 1895," said Mr. McEwing, "the expenditure was \$5,396,000, while in 1909 it had grown to \$8,825,712, while the estimates for 1910 call for the immense sum of \$12,364,000." The member from West Wellington

referred to the great amount that was being spent upon Hydro-electric work and cast doubts upon the probability of some of the great things promised from the operations of the Hydro-electric Commission.

The Power Problem.

"It is a well known fact," continued the speaker, "that the manufacturers in many towns and cities do not intend to do away with their present power for electric power. The municipalities are under obligation to the Government and if the manufacturers do not take the power the obligations will have to be met by the taxpayers. And if these taxpayers in the future refuse to meet these obligations, what is the Government going to do?"

"The hon. member for North Toronto says that the power policy will have far-reaching effects. I believe that is quite right. The time will come when people will regret that the power project was ever conceived in the way it is being carried out."

Proceeding, Mr. McEwing criticized the Government's educational policy, declaring that the public schools were in a worse position now than they had ever been.

"The new readers," he said, "were cheap, it is true—cheap and nasty."

"Mr. Speaker, I believe that the teachers in the public schools now are no better than they were six years ago."

"Nonsense," interrupted Mr. A. C. Pratt, Norfolk.

"Others may think so," added Premier Whitney.

"My hon. friend to the left says 'nonsense,'" retorted Mr. McEwing, "but that is as good an instance of it as anything I know."

After the Students.

Mr. McEwing scored the Government over the rowdy conduct of the University students on certain occasions.

The University, he said, was now a Provincial institution, drawing large sums of public money. Instead of turning out educated and well-behaved men and women it was "the scene of rowdiness and disorder which would disgrace a backwoods log schoolhouse."

Mr. McEwing brought up the question of the advisability of keeping up Government House. He gave the amounts that had been spent for the purpose during the past six years, totalling about some hundred thousand dollars, "largely to keep up an establishment for the entertainment of the society people of Toronto." "Hear hear," said the Premier, amid general laughter. "Perhaps," the Speaker added, "we shouldn't sacrifice an institution that gives Toronto people so much pleasure, but, after all, Toronto is only a part of the Province."

"Hear, hear," agreed Mr. Studholme.

Defending the Government.

Mr. R. A. Norman (Prince Edward), who contributed his maiden speech, twitted Mr. McEwing with being ambitious to get in front of his party. "He has got some very revolutionary ideas," was the naive comment of the speaker, on the criticism made on the Government House expenditure. Mr. Norman extolled the establishment of agricultural classes in the high schools, and the resultant formation of farmers' clubs. "It is things like these that convince the farmers that this Government is right side up with care," was his verdict.

"Political exigency has surely got to a mighty low ebb when the main subject of criticism is expenditure on Government House," was his comment on Mr. McEwing's allegations. He had been glad, owing to election by his constituents, to be a guest at Government House and "help dispose of some of that '\$100,000.'" He noticed, moreover, that it "took more motive power than I possessed to drag the member for West Wellington away from the good things there."

Subsidized Financial Press.

The greatest achievement of the Government was its power policy, according to Mr. Norman. It had been wrought "in spite of a subsidized financial press and the steady bombardment of an unscrupulous Opposition." It ushered in a new era for Ontario, in that the natural resources were to be operated for the public welfare and not for the finan-

cial aggrandizement of private corporate interests.

Dr. MacKay's Suggestions.

Dr. A. MacKay (North Oxford) noted that the Opposition had been accused of failure to make suggestive criticism. Such was his purpose. He counselled the engagement by the Province of a medical man with an aptitude for research to devise a better system of treating epilepsy.

The speaker expressed his sympathy for the Provincial Secretary in the accident which befell his daughter, and regretted that when the dog was shot and cremated the brain was not removed and examined. He thought the occurrence should suggest to the Government the establishment of a Pasteur institute in Ontario.

A Campaign Speech.

Mr. A. Ferguson (South Simcoe) spoke briefly upon campaign lines. In every department, he declared, the Government was making progress, particularly along the lines of agriculture. He patted the Administration on the back for its law reform and enforcement of the liquor license laws, and assured the House that the feeling in his district was thoroughly in favor of the three-fifths clause. Over 95 per cent, of rural Ontario, he declared, were champions of the power policy, although no immediate personal benefit was anticipated in the east.

Mr. R. J. McCormack (East Lambton) moved the adjournment of the debate.

War on the Dogs.

War on the vicious rural dog is threatened by the bill presented by Mr. P. H. Bowyer (East Kent). The measure enacts that every municipality shall impose a tax of \$1 on each dog, if one only is owned or harbored \$2 on each additional dog, and \$5 on every bitch. The object of his bill, Mr. Bowyer stated, was to reduce the number of dogs, and "especially aimed at the number of useless and vicious curs owned and harbored throughout Ontario—a menace to the sheep industry and the people."

Mr. A. E. Fripp (West Ottawa) introduced five amendments to the Municipal Act covering the proposals of the Ontario Municipal Association.