

NOT GETTING SHARE OF IMMIGRATION

Ontario Away Behind Other
Provinces in Newcomers.

BUDGET DEBATE LIVELY.

Prime Minister and Opposition
Leader Cross Swords.

Elk Lake Telegram Confirmed by
Affidavit—"He Who Reads May
Run" Notice to Dr. Beattie Nes-
bitt—Reorganization of Railway
Board.

Acrimonious remarks characterized the continued Budget debate in the Legislature yesterday. Mr. Rowell and the Prime Minister had a tilt at the opening over the length of the sittings and the necessity of doing more work if prorogation was to be reached by Easter. Mr. G. Howard Ferguson (Grenville) made a personal attack on the leader of the Opposition, whom he called a "political Lilliputian" for not having taken a definite stand on any planks in the Conservative platform. In an able and forceful address Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) expressed satisfaction that Mr. Ferguson had not been lost in the drifts of South Renfrew. He declared that Ontario was not getting a proportionate share of the immigration to the Dominion, and charged Sir James Whitney with failure to reorganize the Ontario Railway Board. He made a boomerang of Mr. McGarry's reference to "wolves" on Tuesday. The now famous Elk Lake telegram, Mr. Elliott said, constituted an offence so serious that Mr. Shillington (Temiskaming) had to place his denial of having any knowledge of it before the House, while the Prime Minister uttered not a word. Mr. W. S. Brewster spoke briefly, and will resume the debate to-day.

To Sit at Night.

Mr. Rowell drew blood at the opening of the sitting by referring to the Prime Minister's remark on Friday last that if the House was to prorogue before Easter there would have to be longer sessions. Mr. Rowell pointed out that many important matters were to be discussed, and he did not see any prospect of getting through by Easter unless night sessions were held. With that object in view, he said, the Opposition would be glad to co-operate and would assent to Sir James' suggestion to hold night sessions from now on.

Sir James, evidently nettled, was quickly on his feet, and thanked the hon. gentleman for his suggestion. "But that would have been the normal course for this House in any event," he added, "although on five or six occasions this course has been deferred at the request of the hon. gentleman himself."

The Prime Minister said he wished to make himself understood. He had never before seen the necessity for being so much on guard against inadvertence and misstatement. The Government was ready to get on with

the business of the House, but he had seen all along that there was not the remotest chance of this being done by Easter, owing to the fact that the order paper was "littered up with a lot of material the like of which had never been seen in the heavens above, the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth."

"Evidently," he continued, "the hon. gentleman wants to show the people of this country his ability as a chancery or equity draughtsman. There are one and a half pages on the order paper taken up with a question that could have been put into four lines. This is how our time is being frittered away, and the way in which the expenses attendant upon the session are lost sight of."

A Personal Attack.

In reply to some of the criticisms made by Mr. A. G. MacKay of the Budget brought down by Hon. Mr. Lucas, Mr. G. Howard Ferguson (Grenville) launched a personal attack against the leader of the Opposition, who, he said, had taken no definite stand on any of the questions in the Conservative platform. The great Liberal party that was honored by the names of Blake and Mowat was led by a political Lilliputian, who would take ready-made any platform that was prepared for him.

Mr. Proudfoot had complained at the methods of spending money on colonization roads, but, said Mr. Ferguson, the Conservative Government was not the father of these methods. It had been following the methods which had been in use before it came into power. Regarding the paucity of immigrants coming into the Province, Mr. Ferguson said the Ontario Government was not responsible. It was the fault of the Dominion Government, but now that there was in power in Ottawa a Government which intended to be just and equitable they hoped that Ontario would get her share of immigrants.

The Tables Turned.

"I am very glad to-day to see that we are honored by the presence of the hon. gentleman from Grenville," began Mr. Elliott as Mr. Ferguson resumed his seat. "There was a time during the earlier part of this session when his seat was not occupied; and as the snowdrifts at that time were very bad down in his part of the country I was afraid that the hon. gentleman had been buried in the drifts. I was glad to learn when he returned that it was not he but the hon. gentleman with whom he was travelling who was buried in the drifts."

Not Getting Share.

Mr. Elliott at once took up the immigration policy of the Government, and quoted returns to show that during 1910 over 65,000 immigrants had been brought into the Province, of whom only 7,000 were due to Provincial auspices. Allowing for half as many more who were not recorded, Mr. Elliott showed that 54,201 settlers had been brought into Ontario that year by the Dominion immigration authorities, or about one-third of the total immigration of Canada for that year. Compared with the number that went to other Provinces, Mr. Elliott declared that "Ontario is not increasing her population in proportion to the general increase of the Dominion or in proportion to the increase of a majority of the other Provinces."

A Mixed-up Statement.

Criticizing the Budget address of Hon. Mr. Lucas, the member for West Middlesex went on to say that notwithstanding the animadversions of the Provincial Treasurer over the ambiguity of the public accounts under a former Administration, there was no improvement in them to-day. He complained that the Government had mixed up capital and ordinary expenditure, and seemed to be guided solely by the contingency presented when the expenditure on any account exceeded the revenue. "Where the revenue exceeds the expenditure it goes into ordinary account; when the expenditure exceeds the revenue it goes into capital account."

Mr. Elliott was severe on the Prime Minister's pre-election statement with reference to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. He read the criticism of Mr. W. K. McNaught, delivered to an audience in North Toronto, and proceeded to read a report from The Mail and Empire of Nov-