

Ontario, no place where the consuming public was growing more rapidly, yet they were faced with a normal decline in the rural population. The motion aimed at a systematic study of the problem. It would be a good thing if a Commission were appointed to gather data and take other steps. That would be a good starting point for better and remedial measures. He instanced the case of the United States, where rural Commissions had been tackling such problems. In the last six years the area in the Province producing food showed a substantial diminution.

#### Lack of Feeders.

It was a serious situation that with an increasing city population the food products upon which these people live had been diminishing. Referring to agricultural training, the Opposition leader said the Agricultural College only met the needs of a portion of the agricultural community of this Province. It seemed to him something like having a university without having a high school or public school system as a feeder to the university. They should have in different sections of the Province agricultural high schools, or whatever they might call them, similar to those in Denmark, Germany and other countries in Europe.

Mr. Pattinson (South Waterloo) said the introduction of district representatives was a great step.

#### Tariff Favors Cities.

Mr. W. McDonald (Centre Bruce) said 28 counties in Ontario had decreased in population during the last ten years. The decrease in the rural part had been in round numbers 30,000.

During the last ten years the only places that have increased in population are the cities, New Ontario and the fruit-growing districts. The cause had been due to the tariff policy of the country, which tends to build up the industrial centres and depopulate the rural counties. The lure of the west had also been a large contributing factor. The scarcity of farm help could be remedied by a wise immigration policy, a matter largely of Federal concern, but it could be greatly stimulated by Provincial co-operation. The decline in rural population meant a distinct loss in political power, which was seen in the pending Federal redistribution.

The remedy, Mr. McDonald pointed out, was not to preach to matured men and women. The start must be made with the boys and girls. "The love of the farm must be taught in the public schools." Interest in the work must be stimulated by more generous prizes to schools and county fairs.

"It grieves my heart to see the money that is being wasted on that castle in Rosedale when you are starving the farms, the rural schools, and the country fairs," said Mr. McDonald amid applause. Radial railways, good roads, and the Hydro-electric service would receive the cordial support of the Liberal members.

Lieut.-Col. Atkinson (North Norfolk) expressed surprise at the distance that Mr. Duff had got away in his speech from the question of agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture made no attempt to show the Province a way out of the difficulty.

#### Poor Departmental Methods.

Mr. Hugh Munro (Glengarry) thought the business methods of the Department of Agriculture were at fault, and he was satisfied that the Province was not getting adequate value for its expenditure. He contrasted conditions in Ontario with those in Quebec, where the rural population had actually increased, while for the same period in Ontario it had fallen away behind.

#### Winter Rural Schools.

Mr. J. G. Anderson (South Bruce) believed they should have winter schools in Ontario for the larger boys and girls. The tariff was a matter which might be inquired into by a Commission. He was of the opinion that the tendency of a protective policy had been to draw from the rural districts to the industrial centres. He also thought that together with the large college at Guelph they should have smaller schools, presided over by the district representatives. A demonstration farm was another thing which Mr. Anderson advocated.

#### Labor Member's Criticism.

Mr. Studholme (East Hamilton)

said if this Commission was to be one of giving a man a big salary and a soft job he was against it. If the Commission was one that was willing to go into this work and give their services free he was in favor. Referring to the Minister of Agriculture's speech, Mr. Studholme said they had done too much for the northwest and too little for themselves.

The House divided at 11 o'clock, the result being that Hon. Mr. Duff's amendment was carried by 51 to 16.

#### Liquor Law in Waterloo.

The motion of Dr. McQueen (North Wentworth) for a return referring to the administration of the liquor license law in North Waterloo drew from Hon. Mr. Hanna a promised statement as to the advisability of giving information along certain lines. The Provincial Secretary held that the greater part of the question went directly against the spirit of the liquor license act and to what had been practically the universal practice of the department with regard to such information. It had been the practice of the department, and furthermore, it was the statutory duty imposed upon every officer of the department charged with the enforcement of the liquor license act, to treat as confidential any information that was given to him bearing on the violation of the act. He took the point not because this happened to be North Waterloo, and he would say in justice to the Inspector for North Waterloo and in justice to that constituency that there was nothing reflecting upon the administration of the liquor license act. With regard to the request for the report of the Provincial License Inspector in 1913, the Provincial Secretary stated there was no inspector who visited North Waterloo for any such purpose in that year.

#### Conduct of Inspectors.

Mr. Rowell said the amount of heat which his hon. friend exhibited showed that there was something at the back of the motion giving him—. The sentence was not allowed to be completed, the Provincial Secretary rising and indignantly remarking, "I expressly stated there was nothing at the back of this motion. I now ask the hon. gentleman to accept my statement." Mr. Rowell said he would accept the statement that the Provincial Secretary's statement was such on general principles. Mr. Rowell said he quite recognized that in the administration of the law the officers should be permitted to treat complaints as confidential. This motion, however, was not dealing with an individual complaint of violation of the law; it was dealing with the conduct of the inspectors, and in framing that it may be the language was broad because of the desire to secure all information relating to the conduct of the inspectors.

Mr. Hanna declared that no letter of a slanderous nature would be tabled, and added that in the light of what had been said he did not think there would be any misconception in appreciating the question.

Dr. McQueen remarked that evidently a touch-up on license administration stirred up some ginger in the House. If the Government had done what they promised to do when in Opposition, to remove the license system from under the party spoils system, they would have saved a good deal of trouble.

#### Return on Bilinguals.

Mr. Racine (Russell) moved for a return showing the English-French or bilingual schools in the Province, both public and separate, from which the Government grant has been withheld during the years 1912 and 1913, and the grounds upon which these had been withheld. Hon. Dr. Pyne said a return would be brought down.

Mr. Kohler asked if the amount of compensation to be paid Sir William Meredith as Commissioner on the workmen's compensation act had been fixed. The reply was in the negative.