

GOVERNMENT FAILS TO AID UNIVERSITY

Mr. Rowell Regrets Delay in Dealing With Critical Sit- uation — Public Money Lavished on Government House—The Educational Authorities Flayed

The forenoon sitting of the Legislature yesterday was largely taken up with estimates and a number of Opposition amendments under the various heads. The finances of the Provincial University formed the subject of an amendment by Mr. Rowell when the education estimates were being considered. It was in the following terms:—"In view of the action of the Government in withdrawing from the Legislature the control over the finances of the Provincial University, this House has a peculiar claim upon the Government for information and leadership in dealing with the finances of the University, which the Chairman of the Board of Governors has declared to be most serious and that the University is facing a financial crisis. And this House regrets that the Government has failed to submit to this House proposals for dealing with the financial condition of the University, which was disclosed, even to the public, more than a year ago."

The Opposition leader asserted that the University should be in as close touch as possible with the Legislature and the whole people of the Province, and the fullest possible information should be given on all available occasions. It was true that provision had been made after this year for a grant out of the succession duty fund, the amount being limited to some \$500,000. The result might be that on the present scale of expenditure on the University, without increasing the expenditure by one dollar, there would be a deficit of no less than \$40,000 on that basis.

A Big Deficit.

Mr. Rowell also pointed out that according to the statement presented by the Chairman of the Board of Governors to the members of the Legislature, there would be a deficit on the year's operation of \$120,000, and the Government had made no proposal as to how this deficit should be met. The Chairman of the Board of Governors also pointed out that they needed about \$1,400,000 for buildings, and that some of this proposed expenditure had already been approved by the Government, and hence the Government had entirely failed to submit to the House any proposal for dealing with the matter. The Legislature and the people of the Province were entitled to know what the Government intended to do with reference to the grave financial situation confronting the University.

Amendment Defeated.

The Government made no answer and the amendment was defeated, as were also amendments by Mr. Sinclair that the expenditure of \$100,000 on Government House be not concurred in, and Mr. Bowman, that it be referred back to the Committee of Supply to show in the estimates the amount already appropriated by the statute for the current year, 1914-15. Mr. Bowman thought the system adopted by the Dominion Government should be followed. This showed separate columns dealing with estimated and statutory expenditure.

The Printing Committee of the Legislature are somewhat sparing in the information they give on some points, and when criticized on this score in the House and when good

reasons are advanced by Opposition members for giving details they stand on their own "infallibility" and the obsequious followers of the Government support them to a man. Yesterday Mr. Rowell, who failed to meet with success the other day in a similar connection on other matters, raised the question of printing the returns relating to public school grants, and he was backed up by Mr. J. G. Anderson (South Bruce). The Opposition leader earnestly pleaded for this information being provided in this form.

However, no matter how reasonable a demand comes from the Opposition, it is not the disposition of the Government to oblige and the majority of the House favored the Printing Committee and opposed the returns being printed.

Mr. Marshall Made Good.

The Opposition members stood by their colleague (Mr. Marshall, Monck) regarding the attacks which had been made in the press by the Superintendent of Education. Mr. Marshall, rising on a question of privilege, made reference to the subject and stated that some seventeen years ago Dr. Seath had reported unfavorably on his professional career as a teacher, but this report was not acted upon by the Education Department nor by the High School. Not only was that so, but he remained there and the salary pertaining to his position was increased. The reports that followed by independent inspectors were such that his work compared most favorably with the work of any teacher in the Province. It was a case of most unusual procedure. Did any hon. member of the House have to answer for his ability in this House to any official of any department? He declared that Dr. Seath dominated the Education Department from the top to the bottom. He dominated the educational system throughout the Province.

Hon. Dr. Pyne, Minister of Education, said Mr. Marshall had brought it upon himself. He attacked in the House a man who could not answer him.

Mr. Marshall—You are there to answer for him.

Dr. Pyne—I am not going to mix up in a squabble between the Superintendent and yourself. It is regrettable my hon. friend should use his position in the House to attack a man who is in discharge of his duties in the Province and unable to answer.

Ministerial Responsibility.

The discussion later in the morning took another turn, and the whole question of Ministerial responsibility for the conduct of departments was raised in the following motion by Dr. James A. McQueen (North Wentworth), and strongly supported by Mr. William McDonald (Centre Bruce) and Mr. William Proudfoot (Centre Huron):

"This House desires to assert the principle of Ministerial responsibility to this House of all members of the Government for the work and conduct of their departments, and this House desires to protest against the unfair and unjust attack by the Superintendent of Education upon one of the honorable members of the House in respect of his legitimate work as a member of the House in criticizing the work of the Department of Education; and this House must hold the hon. Minister of Education responsible for this breach of the privileges of the members of the House."

The motion was defeated by a party vote.

Finances Condition.

When the supply bill embodying the sum of the estimates was before the Legislature yesterday, Mr. C. M. Bowman (North Bruce) again directed attention to the serious condition of the finances of the Province, as disclosed by the statements of the Provincial Treasurer. He said the sum of the estimates along with the