

HAMILTON HIGHWAY IS NOT A PRECEDENT

Government Regards Circumstances as Special

BUDGET IS UNDER FIRE

Liberal Members Complain of Too Rapid Growth of Expenditure and Point to Need for Economy in Provincial Finances.

The aid to be given by the Government to the Toronto-Hamilton highway enterprise is to meet the special circumstances of this case, and is not to be regarded as a general principle applying to other projects in the Province. This point was made clear by Hon. F. G. Macdarmid, Minister of Public Works, in moving the second reading of the bill in the Legislature yesterday.

A Time for Economy.

Mr. W. McDonald, North Bruce, resuming the debate on the Budget, raised roars of laughter by making the request, "Give me some water; I am on the water waggon."

Proceeding to allude to the Budget, Mr. McDonald said this was a time for economy, and a start should be made in some places where they could afford to cut. Mr. McDonald, however, did not agree with a reduction of grants for country fairs.

Hon. Mr. Duff interposed to say that they had representations with reference to the matter, "and it is being very carefully considered. If, when the proper time comes, the Government can pay—and the Government think they can do so—it will certainly be done."

Mr. McDonald welcomed this assurance, and proceeded to point out instances where he thought reductions in expenditure could be reasonably and properly made. Among other things, he thought if 220 members could look after the business in the Dominion Parliament, the Ontario Legislature could be reduced by fifty members. This would save \$70,000.

Farmers to Bear Burden.

Concluding, Mr. McDonald said that the proposed war tax, in the last analysis, would fall upon the farmers. The manufacturer were well looked after in the increased tariff, and were benefiting as well by orders from the War Office. They should not escape paying their full share, and this could best be done by imposing a general income tax.

Spending Too Rapidly.

Mr. H. Munro (Glengarry) thought too much store was being placed on the war and its relation to the finances, and declared the fact was that in this Province they had been spending at too high a rate. Despite its favorable resources Ontario had not made the progress it should have made in agriculture when comparison was made with other Provinces. Ontario was not getting benefit for the money which had been spent.

Major Tolmie Stirs the House.

While the Legislature was droning wearily through the Budget last night a new force was precipitated into the debate when Major (Rev.) J. C. Tolmie, the new Liberal member from Windsor, made his debut. Something had been heard about Major Tolmie as a speaker, and stories had been whispered that a crowd could be drawn from a ball game "to hear Tolmie preach," but his advent into the Opposition ranks last night proved that the new member from the new riding was a man to be reckoned