

# CHAMPIONS THE CAUSE OF THE UNEMPLOYED

## Allan Studholme Divides House on Moratorium Bill

### MR. LUCAS CRITICIZED

Leader of Opposition Presses for Details on Hydro-electric Expenditure—Sir Adam Beck Explains—Capital Expenditures to be Curtailed.

Mr. Allan Studholme, the Labor member for East Hamilton, was true to his colors in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, and on the third reading of the moratorium bill divided the house on a motion to have the clauses relating to distress caused by war stricken out, and give the protection of the bill to those suffering from unemployment. The bill was the first measure of the session to be given a third reading, as Mr. Studholme's motion was lost by 53 to 12. Mr. Wm. Proudfoot (Centre Huron) stood sponsor with Mr. Studholme for the proposal to make the benefits accruing from the moratorium measure available to those who were not able to prove their plight was directly attributable to the war.

#### No Value to Workers.

When the bill was in committee Mr. Rowell drew the Attorney-General's attention to a statement made at the Trades and Labor Congress that he (Mr. Lucas) had admitted that the bill would be of no value to the workers. The leader of the Opposition asked the Attorney-General if that was a correct report. "It may be a correct interpretation of the bill," remarked Mr. Rowell slyly, "but I did not think the Attorney-General would admit it."

Mr. Studholme immediately followed, and read the newspaper report referred to. "My opinion is whether he said it or not the statement is a fact anyway," declared the East Hamilton man amid laughter. "It is no earthly use. It is not worth the ink used." Mr. Studholme said something about land sharks and money lenders, and then moved that the words in clause 5 which made it necessary to prove inability to pay as being "directly or indirectly attributable to the present war" be struck out.

#### Disclaimer From Mr. Lucas.

The Attorney-General here intervened with a disclaimer of the report which had been alluded to. He stated that two men had called upon him when he was on his way to a meeting of the Private Bills Committee, and he spent a few minutes with them. They made a number of requests which went a great deal farther than anybody had suggested in the House, and he told them he could not recommend that the bill should go any farther. The statement he made was that he thought the bill went as far as any Legislature ought to go.

Mr. J. H. Ham (South Brant) favored the amendment of Mr. Studholme. He did not think it should be incumbent on workmen to go to the courts and prove that on account of the war they were in these difficulties. "It seems to me," said the member for South Brant, "that this bill is one for the protection of the speculator and the land shark. That is all I can make out of it. The speculator will be able to go in and prove his case where the workman cannot."

#### Hydro-electric Expenditure.

In Committee of Supply, Mr. Rowell pressed for details of the expenditure covered by the item of \$3,117,000 for the Hydro-electric Power Commission. The amounts were \$388,000 for Niagara Falls transmission system and \$728,000 for transformer station. The Eugenia Falls system, for which \$650,000 was required, Sir Adam Beck said when completed would represent an investment of \$900,000, and the total development would be 10,000 horse-power. The new office building on University avenue was to cost \$125,000, and an additional property on the rear running to Murray street had also been secured to provide for extensions.

Discussing the Hydro-radial situation, Sir Adam said the Toronto-Whitby-Markham project was still waiting a reply from the Federal Government as to its policy towards granting a subsidy. All estimates so far given were based on the granting of a subsidy by the Federal House, and while the money would not be required this year, there was some hope that the Federal authorities would express an opinion with relation to the application.

#### Sir Adam Explains.

Sir Adam intimated that the work of bringing the report of the Hydro-electric Power Commission down to the House in time to be of service to the members during the session was delayed owing to the municipal years not closing until December 31, and he thought the suggestion worthy of consideration that municipal fiscal years throughout the Province should close on November 30 to enable the proper returns to be made.

In reply to another question by Mr. Rowell he said that no application had been made to the Commission to consider a public-owned telephone system in connection with other Hydro-electric enterprises.

#### Question of War Credit.

Before the committee rose Mr. Rowell revived the question of the Government asking the House for a war credit, in any sum reasonable, which, he said, would be gladly voted. To follow the extraordinary method of last year and appropriate money by passing Treasury warrants was straining the audit act and abandoning a sound constitutional principle.

The Provincial Treasurer replied that it was impossible to foresee what, if any, amount would be needed. In any event the money would be required only as circumstances should arise, and it would be folly to come to the House and ask for three, five or seven hundred thousand dollars.

#### Total Appropriations.

Replying to a further interrogation by Mr. Rowell, the Provincial Treasurer intimated that the total appropriation for the year, according to the estimates, was over \$14,578,000. The estimated revenue was \$10,003,378. He referred Mr. Rowell to the statutes to ascertain the probable statutory expenditure.

Mr. Rowell pointed out that if the statutory expenditure this year was equal to that of last year it would bring the total expenditures of the Province for 1915 up to \$19,000,000. "How does my hon. friend contemplate making up the difference between the estimated expenditure?"

#### Capital Expenditures Curtailed.

"By some legislation," replied Mr. McGarry, "and by economizing." There were many ways in which he hoped to make ends meet. He intimated that, following the practice of recent years, it would be necessary to raise a loan. There would be an added revenue from special taxes, he hoped to economize, and probably the Government would not use all the money appropriated in the estimates. But they would have to provide for Hydro-electric extension, for the T. & N. O. and other services. But capital expenditures would likely be curtailed.

The Toronto-Hamilton highway bill was taken back to committee to insert an amendment providing for the width of the road as sixty-six feet, except where engineering necessities required a greater width. Such extra width would be determined by the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board.