

SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY WITHOUT ASKING HOUSE

Mr. Rowell's Complaint of the Government Abuse of Treasury Warrants—Mr. McGarry in Reply Says Province is Growing

Mr. Rowell took occasion yesterday in the Legislature to criticize some of the expenditures made by the Government during the past year without a vote by the House. He vigorously attacked the practice of the expenditures, and quoted opinions backing up his views from great Parliamentarians, both Liberal and Conservative, in both Canada and Britain. He referred to some \$574,000 spent under the authority of Treasury warrants. These items he did not propose to challenge: Expenses in connection with the funeral of Sir James Whitney, the donations to Belgium relief and to the motherland. He did object to the expenditure of \$47,000 on the revision of the statutes. How could a Government issue a Treasury warrant for any such thing as that? he asked. If the Government could do this there could be no arguments why it could not do it in some other expenditures. He did not think the expenditure in the manner in which it was done had any defence. "If this is done, the House has lost its import and its inherent rights in any Parliament of British constitution," he declared.

An Abuse of Power

He maintained that the expenditure of the last general election could have been seen and provided for by a vote of the House. It was an abuse of power, he maintained, as to the manner in which the expenditures were made. The only reason he could think of for not voting it in the House was that the Opposition might have known three or four weeks before it did that an election was coming on and have had that much more time to prepare.

"You would have been that much worse off," interjected Mr. Hanna.

"My honorable friend did not think so at the time," returned the leader of the Opposition.

He hoped that the new Provincial

Treasurer would not continue the practice he had inherited—that of spending money by Treasury warrants.

Larger Ontario, Says McGarry.

Mr. McGarry made a vigorous defence of the Government, pointing out that the practice of issuing Treasury warrants was not new. The provision was enacted into law in 1886. True, under the present Government the amount of the warrants had been increased, but it was to be borne in mind that "this Government is dealing with a larger Ontario than the old Government." Instancing the various items for which warrants had been issued, he asked what would the Province have done had the Government followed the advice of the leader of the Opposition — withhold money for agriculture and repairs for colonization roads until the House met and the money could be voted? A few thousand dollars spent on repairs for colonization roads meant a saving of a much larger sum, because the repairs could be made before the work was ruined by winter weather.

With reference to the item of \$47,000 for the revision of the statutes, Mr. McGarry declared that this sum had been paid for printing the statutes so that there would be no delay in issuing them. The firm with the original contract had refused to go ahead, and the \$47,000 was paid to another firm to do the printing. He thought it was good business.

Had Bitter Experience.

Mr. Rowell replied that the protest of the Opposition was directed against the ever-increasing practice of appropriating money without consulting the Legislature. They had had a bitter experience with regard to the Northern Ontario Development Fund, and the withdrawal from the House of the right to vote the funds was the main object of his protest.

FOREST HILL COMPANY RECEIVES QUIETUS

Differential Treatment by Legislature Committee

A PAPER RAILWAY

Sir Adam Beck Says Extensions Granted to Exploiters Will Hurt Hydro-radial Scheme — Humber Valley Road Favored.

Differential treatment was meted out by the Railway Committee of the Legislature yesterday morning to the Forest Hill Electric Railway Co. and the Humber Valley Electric Railway Co. The committee refused to revive the charter of the former company, while the latter got an extension of two years in which to go on with the work.

The Forest Hill Electric Railway Co. asked in its bill that if \$50,000 was not expended on the work by December 1 next the rights of

the company to the uncompleted portion of the road should cease. It also wanted a further extension of seven years to complete the line.

A Paper Railway.

Hon. Thos. Crawford said the company had repeatedly got extensions. He was favorable to the request. Dr. Forbes Godfrey was strongly opposed to any further dealing with the company. The people in the district were not satisfied with the progress being made. Mr. W. J. Glover, Secretary of the company, said between three and four thousand dollars had been spent in actual construction. Dr. Godfrey wanted to know if any real capitalists were behind the project.

"What I object to is a paper railway," said Dr. Godfrey. "I want the people up there to get a car service. I am not going to see my constituents kept waiting for years for a railway that never gets any farther than paper."

Interferes With Hydro-radials.

Sir Adam Beck said if the Hydro-radial enterprise was to make any progress the committee would have to refuse to grant extensions to promoters and exploiters. Otherwise it would get a setback. Toronto was essential to the success of the Hydro scheme.

Mayor Church thought it was high time the committee proceeded to clean out paper railways.

Mr. J. J. Preston (Durham) and Mr. Thompson (Simcoe) were the only members who voted in favor of the bill.

The application of the Toronto &