

# FRENCH MEMBER'S ELOQUENT APPEAL

## Mr. Ducharme Stirs Debate in Legislature

### A CALL FOR PEACE

All-day Debate on Budget, With Many Expressions of Opinion From Both Sides—Government House Criticized.

An all-day debate in the Legislature yesterday on the Budget was relieved by Mr. S. Ducharme, the Liberal member for North Essex, in a speech which drew forth the plaudits of the members on both sides. The French-Canadian struck a truly patriotic note, and made an earnest call for unity in the Province. When the member for North Essex touched on the war and praised the British constitution he had the attention of all present, and the more eloquent periods evoked marked enthusiasm, and none joined more heartily than the Ministers present. Messrs. Hanna, Ferguson, McGarry and Duff. Mr. Ducharme, though a French-Canadian, is a speaker of parts, his English is good and his delivery is surpassed by few in the House.

"From the first until the last moment, as long as this war lasts," Mr. Ducharme said, "I say it is the duty of every man in Canada to assist as much as he possibly can," and, amid applause, added: "None ought to think and say that with more reason than the nationality I am glad to belong to. Perhaps we were the most lucky people on earth that we happen to have been fostered by the British people. What would have become of us if we had been adopted by the Prussian people? I say here in Canada we are a part of the British Empire. We will not separate. We are not trying to separate, and never will we separate." (Applause.)

#### Drop Belligerent Spirit.

Touching on the educational situation in the Province, the speaker said he did not accuse them, but if the Government of the Province or the Department of Education ever entertained any belligerent spirit against the French-speaking people now was the time to drop it. His remarks applied to those on both sides, and so far as he was concerned he was willing to do his humble best to bring about unity in the Province of Ontario. "the Province I will never leave unless I am chased out of it." (Laughter and applause.)

#### Unhealthy Debt Increase.

Mr. Hugh Munro (Glengarry), continuing the debate on the Budget, declared that the expenditure had increased too fast for the results that were being obtained, and the same applied to the public debt. Between 1904 and the present time the public debt had increased from \$11,000,000 to \$49,000,000. He did not think this showed a healthy condition of things.

Mr. Sinclair (South Oxford) congratulated the Provincial Treasurer on his Budget, and thought he had taken the right course in giving a statement of the assets of the Province. This would have a good effect on Ontario's credit in the money markets of the world. In reply to Mr. Munro he maintained that agriculture was not in a decadent condition, and praised the work of the Department of Agriculture in South Oxford in the matter of district repre-