

# PENALIZE FARMERS WHO IMPROVE LAND

## Government Rejects Plan to Encourage Enterprise

## HANNA "SEES" SINGLE TAX

**Tories Still Stand by Government  
House Extravagance—Liberals Enter  
Protest—Register of Ontario  
Men of Military Age Proposed.**

The policy of the Ontario Government is to penalize farmers who improve their land. If a farmer installs a tile-drainage system, thereby improving his property, his taxes will be increased proportionately. This was made clear in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, when the Government rejected the proposal of Mr. Severin Ducharme, the Liberal member for North Essex, to exclude tile drainage as an element of value in connection with the taxation of farm property.

Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, balked at the proposal of Mr. Ducharme on the ground that it involved "the principle, clear, outstanding and unmistakable, of single tax." This was something the House was not ready to adopt, he said. He congratulated the member for North Essex on his effort. "You've made a good try at it," he told Mr. Ducharme, but that appeared to be his limit.

Mr. Ducharme was sorry the Provincial Secretary was opposed to his plan "because it smells single taxation," but said he realized it was useless to try and get the Government to move.

### The Government's Extravagance.

The first division of the session on which the yeas and nays were asked for occurred in connection with the proposal of Mr. C. M. Bowman, the Liberal Whip, "that this House place on record its disapproval of the excessive and wasteful expenditure already made on the new Government House and of the heavy charge which will be made on the revenues of the Province for its maintenance; and that this House is further of the opinion that such an expenditure for building and furnishing is out of keeping with the democratic sentiment of the people of this Province." There was no discussion on the amendment, which was rejected on a party division. Mr. Allan Studholme (Labor member) voted with the Government, and the vote was 53 to 20.

### Register of Military Age Men.

A bill was introduced by Dr. Forbes Godfrey (West York) providing for the compilation of a Provincial register of males of military age. If the bill is passed registration will be compulsory.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Mr. Rowell gave notice last week that he would move for "a more thorough organization of our resources for the successful prosecution of the war and the maintenance of our agricultural and industrial production." Mr. Rowell favors the appointment of a select committee to inquire into and report as to the further assistance Ontario can render in securing such organization of her resources, particularly in recruiting men for the Canadian expeditionary force, insuring a sufficient supply of labor for the agricultural interests and the necessary industrial operations of the Province, and in promoting thrift and economy among the people, thereby strengthening the financial position of the Province during the war and preparing for the period of reconstruction after the war. The matter will be discussed, it is expected, within the next few days.

Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce) introduced a bill providing that 75 per cent. of the fees paid by owners of automobiles be returned to the municipalities in which the automobiles are owned, to be used for the maintenance of roads in these municipalities.

### Taxing Insurance Companies.

With respect to the proposed taxation of unlicensed insurance companies doing business in Ontario, Mr. Mark Irish (Toronto) said that these companies are cutting rates by 20 per cent. and paying commissions of 10 per cent. and are then receiving the same net return as licensed companies. The only criticism he had to offer was that the tax proposed by the Attorney-General was not heavy enough.

Mr. Wm. Proudfoot (Huron) declared that the policies of some of the unlicensed companies doing business in Ontario were not worth the paper they were printed on. The policyholders should be protected, he said, by a regulation compelling all companies to make a deposit with the Government.

## HEBREWS COMPLAIN OF DISCRIMINATION Say Bail Refused Because They Were Jews—Crown At- torney Accused

According to information in the hands of Mr. William Proudfoot, M. P. (Huron), two Jews who offered bail money for the accused in a case heard at Sault Ste. Marie were discriminated against by the Crown Attorney on account of their race. The allegation is that the official said he would not accept the money because the two men were Jews. Hon. I. B. Lucas, Attorney-General, on the other hand, told the Legislature yesterday that the Crown Attorney denied having made such a remark. The latter had explained that one of the men exclaimed:

"Why! Is not Jew bail as good as Gentile."

"I said Christian or Jewish had nothing to do with the matter," is the attorney's version of his reply, "all I had to do with was if adequate sureties were given."

The Attorney-General stated that the Magistrate who was present backed up the Crown Attorney. The accused's solicitor declared the attorney declined to accept "Jewish bail of that kind."

Mr. Proudfoot took issue with the Attorney-General's remark that it was a tempest in a teapot. "My information comes from men of as good reputation and standing as the Crown Attorney," he said, "My information is that the Crown Attorney did make the statement."

The discussion arose on a motion by Mr. Proudfoot for a return showing copies of all correspondence which passed between the Government or any officer or official thereof in reference to the granting of bail in the case of Rex. v. Freidman, heard at Sault Ste. Marie, and copies of all correspondence received by the Government from any source in reference to the granting or refusal of bail.

Mr. Proudfoot maintained that the reported action of the Crown Attorney was unfair, was detrimental to the best interests of the Province and an insult to men of the Jewish race. If the Crown Attorney made the statement alleged he should be summarily dealt with by the Government.

### Would Be Serious Charge.

Hon. Mr. Lucas had no objection to bringing down the correspondence. If the statement reported was true it would be a serious charge against the Crown Attorney, but that official absolutely denied the truth of the statement. He advised members to take the greatest possible precaution against placing too much importance on little pieces of gossip or information that came to them.

The case heard at Sault Ste. Marie related to the defendant's alleged connection with aliens. He was acquitted of the charge.