

ONTARIO IS EAGER TO GIVE FURTHER AID

Legislature Names Special Committee to Inquire Into Possibilities of Systematizing Aid to Empire—Talk of Register of Man Power

The Ontario Legislature yesterday appointed a special committee of fourteen members to consider the organization of the agricultural and industrial resources of the Province, and to inquire into and report as to what further assistance Ontario can render in the work of recruiting men for the Canadian expeditionary forces.

This action was the outcome of a resolution introduced by Mr. N. W. Rowell, leader of the Opposition, and a bill sponsored by Dr. Forbes Godfrey, member for West York.

The personnel of the committee, as suggested by Premier Hearst, is as follows: Hon. Messrs. Hearst, Duff, McGarry, Ferguson, and Messrs. Godfrey, McPherson, McCrea, Sinclair, Allan, Rowell, Proudfoot, Bowman, Ducharme and Gillespie.

The debate occupied the whole of the afternoon.

The resolution which stood in Mr. Rowell's name was in the following terms:

"That in the opinion of this House the most thorough organization possible of our resources should be secured for the successful prosecution of the war and the maintenance of our agricultural and industrial production; that in addition to the action already taken by the Government this House would approve of further action to this end, and that a Select Committee composed of — members be appointed to inquire into and report as to the further assistance which this Province can render in securing such organization of our resources, particularly in assisting in the work of 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 our financial position during the war and preparing for the period of reconstruction after the war."

Premier Favors Committee.

Premier Hearst said time would be saved if they discussed together the Opposition leader's motion and Dr. Godfrey's bill. It was the intention of the Government that these two matters should be referred to a special committee of the House. "In doing that," said the Premier, "the Government want to have it clearly understood they are not endorsing the principles of the bill or, in fact, any principle other than the general one: the desire of the House to co-operate in every way possible in the war in which we are now engaged. In fact, it might be that some of the matters referred to are beyond the jurisdiction of the House, but we feel the best course to take is to refer both the motion and the bill to a special committee, where the legality as well as the merits of the different suggestions can be thoroughly canvassed and a report made back to the House for such action as might be deemed necessary."

A Full Organization.

In his splendid plea for organizing the full resources of the Province, the leader of the Opposition said they must not only promote and protect the interests of agriculture, but also seek to maintain to the highest point of efficiency the whole industrial organization of the country. "The thought in presenting the motion to the House is this," said Mr. Rowell, "that if we have a committee such as

the Prime Minister suggests to consider these matters, not only could we have the benefit of mutual conference, free and frank conference over these matters, of men from both sides of the House meeting together not as representatives of each side of the House, but as common citizens of a common country, all alike interested in doing the very best thing, but we could have the benefit of representatives of agriculture who could present their view of the matter and tell us the conditions in connection with the farm labor problem; we could have come before us the representatives of the industries of the country, who could state the conditions in connection with their industries; we could have come before us men representing the recruiting agencies, who could state their problems to us, if need be we could have the suggestions of the military authorities, who might put forward their view on these matters.

Get All Possible Facts.

"By gathering together the best thought of all classes of the community and conferring together, man to man, in the best interests of our Province, we might be able to work out some plan or suggestion which the committee could report back to the House, and which the House if it saw fit could adopt or embody in legislation which would represent a real and substantial contribution upon the part of this Legislature and the people of the Province to the prosecution of the great objective which lies so near to our hearts."

Reason to be Proud.

Mr. Rowell gave an instructive account of how the British Dominions had organized to meet the unparalleled situation, and referring to the British Isles, declared, amid general applause, if ever there was a time when a man had just reason to be proud of the race from which he sprung and of the achievements of the men who still lived in the old land it was at this hour.

After alluding to the way Australia and New Zealand had risen to the occasion, and paying a tribute to the courage and capacity of General Botha in dealing with the situation in South Africa, the Liberal leader aroused loud applause from both sides of the House when he remarked:

Must Do Whole Duty.

"I venture to think, I venture to say, as I have said in the city of Montreal, and repeat here, that we should not permit the Nationalist movement in this country to deter us from doing our whole duty as we see it. And I believe that the Federal leaders of the two parties—Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier—in expressing the common determination of the people of Canada to prosecute this war to a successful conclusion expressed the best sentiment and the overwhelming sentiment of the men of both races in the Dominion of Canada."

Man Who Stays Home.

Mr. Rowell advocated that there should be some means by which the men who stayed at home by reason of the importance of their work here should have a certificate that their duty lay at home, and thus remove any odium.

Canada Behind.

Australia and New Zealand have Canada "faded off the map," in the opinion of Dr. Forbes Godfrey, member for West York, who made a strong plea for the compilation of a register of the men of military age in Ontario. In urging registration he said he was speaking for himself, and was not asking anyone else to assume responsibility. "I am a firm believer in national service," said he, referring to what he termed "the slipshod and haphazard methods of recruiting under the voluntary sys-