

MR. LUCAS "EXPLAINS" ATTACK ON MR. BOWMAN

Says Berlin Reference Came
First From Audience

MR. M'DONALD'S QUESTION

Debate on the Address Resumed in
Legislature—Mr. Parliament At-
tacks Agriculture Department
Reorganization.

"Mr. Attorney-General, you have got to turn over a new leaf. You wobbled on the temperance question when you made that speech about having your 'ears to the ground,' and it will not do. I would like to know whether you were correctly reported and what you meant, when you said in West Simcoe at the time of the by-election, that 'Mr. Bowman better go back to Bruce or Berlin.'"

In these words Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce) confronted Hon. I. B. Lucas with his part in Col. John A. Currie's notorious attack on the Provincial Liberal Whip. The incident occurred in the Legislature last evening during the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Inspired by Audience.

"I made no reference in any speech I made in West Simcoe to Mr. Bowman's nationality," Mr. Lucas replied. "As I was saying that Mr. Bowman had come all the way from Bruce county to make this criticism about machine guns, and he had better go back to Bruce, someone, not me, said, 'or Berlin,' and I repeated the words, 'or Berlin.' That is the whole story. Mr. Bowman's nationality had not been referred to. I simply repeated the words, and it was magnified into a tremendous thing."

Mr. McDonald said he would accept the explanation. Continuing, the Liberal member paid tribute to the patriotic work not only of Mr. Bowman, but also of Mr. W. D. Cargill, Conservative member for South Bruce.

Alleges Plot by "Wets."

Resuming the debate on the Address, Mr. A. H. Musgrove (North Huron) devoted some attention to the temperance question, saying the Liberals had been temperance men who had done very little for the cause. In recent by-elections the Liberals had said the issue was the incapacity of the Government, but they really wanted to take advantage of the votes of those Conservatives who were against the Government on the temperance question. There had been a movement on the part of those who were opposed to the prohibition legislation to dethrone Premier Hearst and then to smash the leader of the Opposition and put the member for Southwest Toronto in his place.

Credit for Prohibition.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) said the member for North Huron spoke of the attack not only upon the Premier but also on the leader of the Opposition. It was news to him (Mr. Elliott) that such an attack had been made. He did not believe his friend was very well informed. The tem-

perance act had given splendid satisfaction.

He congratulated the Premier on enacting the temperance legislation, and expressed his appreciation of the action of his followers, including those who were not very much in favor of the legislation but who supported it.

"But I believe when we come to place credit for this legislation where it really belongs that members on both sides of the House will have the fairness to give credit to the man who five years ago introduced a program of advanced legislation into this House," said Mr. Elliott. "We are proud of the fact that the leader of the Opposition in this House was the first political leader in this country who had the foresight and the courage to take such an advanced stand."

The member for West Middlesex made an earnest plea to grant the vote to women.

Mr. Colin S. Cameron of North Grey praised the war work of the Government, and paid high tribute to Sir William Hearst, who, he said, had proved a worthy successor to "the great Whitney." He endeavored to show that the present Government was abreast of public opinion.

Agricultural Makeshift.

Serious fault was found with the "makeshift" arrangements in the Department of Agriculture by Mr. Nelson Parliament (Prince Edward), who declared that the department was the most important one in Ontario, and should have for its head the ablest man they could secure. With all respect to the Premier, he did not think Sir William would be able to spare the time for the work that was required of the head of the Department of Agriculture. If they had appointed a farmer they would have been sure of better administration than they could expect from lawyers and deputies who had little or no knowledge of farming. They should also aid the farmers by providing for rural credits, and should make an earnest effort to keep the young men on the farms if they were to keep up production.

Among the other speakers were Messrs. Hilliard (Dundas) and Musgrove (Niagara Falls).

Mr. Hartley Dewart will resume the debate this afternoon.