

said he was surprised at the change of heart of the Opposition. The late Minister of Agriculture was a farmer, and the Opposition criticized and bombarded that department repeatedly.

Taking notice of the remarks of Mr. Musgrove, Mr. Racine of Russell said that when someone proposed to make a dentist of a man who had not attended the Dental College, Mr. Musgrove was the first man to protest.

Mr. Musgrove—It was not I; it was my brother, and I am not responsible for him. (Laughter.)

Mr. Racine—You are lucky, sir, you have a brother. (Laughter.)

The member for Russell vigorously criticized the arrangement which placed a lawyer at the head of the Department of Agriculture. They should have a farmer for that position, "and if you have not a man on that side of the House we have lots of them on this side." (Laughter.)

Mr. Alex. Ferguson (South Simcoe) declared Sir William Hearst had made a wise appointment when he secured Prof. Creelman for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture. He defended the policy of the Government.

Put the People Back on the Land

Some plan should be introduced that would have the effect of stopping the cityward trend of the rural population and putting the people back on the land, said Mr. Nelson Parliament (Prince Edward). He gave figures showing how the acreage of cleared land in the Province has decreased with the decrease in rural population, and read Government reports showing that from practically every county in the Province complaints had come that there was a serious shortage of farm laborers.

More Help for Farmers.

While the farmers were crying out that they had not enough help to work the land the Department of Agriculture was being loaded up with a lot of laymen, said Mr. Parliament. The farmers were willing to go almost any length in order to increase production in accordance with the desire of the Government, but it was up to the Government to do its share also. "We must have more help for the farmers. In my own constituency this year there are farms that will not be worked because there are no laborers. The problem has been solved in Denmark, and it could be solved in Ontario if the Government would launch out. Great Britain has bonused agriculture in order that an increased output of foodstuffs may be assured for the next few years. What we want in Ontario is a Minister of Agriculture who knows the needs of the farmers and who will not allow the department to drift along in such a slipshod way." Mr. Parliament then moved that the bill introduced by Sir William Hearst be given a six months' hoist.

East York Member Praises Whole Ontario Cabinet

Mr. George S. Henry (East York), who is said to be slated for appointment to the portfolio of Agriculture, followed. He paid tribute to the late Sir James Whitney, whose name, he said, was a synonym for honesty and progress. Following such an outstanding man, Sir William Hearst had a difficult position to fill, but in the two short years which he had been Prime Minister Sir William had risen to a place "second to none of his predecessors." (Applause.) Mr. Henry also spoke in complimentary terms of Mr. McGarry, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Hanna, and other Ministers. He declared "Mr. McGarry in two years has bounded into a commanding position in the money markets of the world," and before taking the portfolio of Provincial Treasurer Mr. McGarry was a lawyer.

Premier Student of Farming.

Mr. Henry went on to show there was no particular reason why Sir William should not be head of the Agricultural Department, "because he was raised on the farm, and has been a student of farming all his days." He thought it would be an ideal arrangement for the Prime Minister to manage each department of the Government in turn if it were possible, in order to make himself familiar with the affairs of every department. As for the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture, they could well be trusted to

prove their worth.

Mr. Thomas Marshall (Lincoln) said the Conservative members who had spoken were more or less apologetic for the present situation. The speaker quoted the Premier's remarks upon this bill, when he said, when the time should arrive for an experienced and practical agriculturist to be placed in charge of this department he would not hesitate to choose such. If the Premier had such a man in mind, why did he not select him now? asked Mr. Marshall. The member drew attention to clause 3 of the bill, which read: "The department of the Government of Ontario known as 'the Department of Agriculture' is continued, and shall be presided over by the Minister." It had apparently occurred to the Government if this clause were not inserted some people might think they were not going to have a Department of Agriculture any longer. It seemed to him a trifling way to treat this great department.

Mr. R. H. McElroy (Carleton) said in the last ten years agriculture, under Conservative administration, had made great strides.

Need for Practical Farmer.

Col. T. R. Atkinson (North Norfolk) said he was surprised that the member for North Huron had given the lawyers a certificate that he did not expect he would give. He did not believe members on the Government side realized the position the farmer was in to-day. He was the hardest hit man in the Province. "We want a Minister of Agriculture who will take hold of this department and get the farmer help," declared Col. Atkinson. "I want to see a man who is big enough for the job, a man who has the confidence of the farmers and will do something for them. Unless the Agricultural Department takes hold of this matter of labor in earnest there is going to be a great shortage of production in the Province."

Mr. Joseph Edgar (Parry Sound) thought that in the hands of the present Administration the interests of agriculture were safe.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) said thousands of acres were untilled at the present time, and it was of the highest importance that production should be the highest possible at the present day. "It is not only an economic duty," said Mr. Elliott, "but it is the highest patriotic duty next to serving at the front." None of the speakers on the Conservative side had lent very great inspiration to the important industry of agriculture. The member for West Middlesex twitted Conservatives with having treated Liberal criticism lightly, but the member for Carleton and others had eventually become enthusiastic converts. It was worth something to secure converts in such large numbers. (Laughter.)

Premier Hearst's Position.

Premier Hearst referred to the Liberal members who took part in the debate as "kid-gloved agriculturists," and went on to say that a proposal to put an embargo on potatoes going from Ontario to the United States was rather amusing, considering that it came from "an apostle of reciprocity." The Premier declared there was no place in the world that could compare with Ontario for agriculture. Rural depopulation was greater when the Liberals were in power than since the Conservatives assumed office. He gave figures to show the value of Ontario's crops was constantly increasing. The arrangements for the administration of the department were only temporary. He had taken the portfolio temporarily in order that he might study the problems with which they had to deal, with a view to broadening out. Plans would have to be made for settlement of soldiers on the land, and extensive development work in New Ontario would have to be undertaken. "It was not my intention to continue in the office of Minister of Agriculture permanently, but the experience I hope to gain will help me to map out the policy of the Government in the months to come, and when the proper time comes a Minister of Agriculture will be selected." There was little work at the Ontario Agricultural College now compared to pre-war times, as many of the students had joined the colors, and Professor Creelman's own statement to him was that he had a good deal of time on his hands which he could give to the Province. If Prof. Creelman's whole