

URGES PROBE OF PORK PRICE

**North Essex Member Makes
Request of Ontario
Government**

BUDGET DEBATE RESUMED

**Practical Men Needed as De-
partment Heads, Says
Mr. Fraser**

Mr. S. Ducharme (North Essex) was the first speaker to resume the Budget debate yesterday. He paid tribute to the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and turning to a discussion of the difficulties of farmers, Mr. Ducharme defended them from charges of profiteering. The speaker urged the Government to investigate the cost of pork, to place responsibility for existing prices. He asked that the Legislature be told the estimated cost of the Provincial highway.

He referred briefly to the Ontario Temperance Act, and gave it as his opinion that the measure "was a thorn in many people's sides." However, he reserved the right to discuss the subject at greater length when the amendments to the act are brought down.

Mr. J. Thompson (East Peterboro') commended the Government for its advanced legislation, and mentioned the Housing Bill. His county, he said, was the only one in the Province that was not in the Ontario good roads scheme. However, the County Council had blocked the system in the past, but this year he anticipated a change. He was not against the Provincial highway, and would not be as long as it did not interfere with the county and county-Provincial roads. Mr. Thompson thought statute labor on rural roads should be abolished. The speaker commended the Department of Agriculture for the assistance it has given farmers, particularly in assisting in the raising of pure-bred stock, and through the District Representatives.

W. H. Fraser's First Speech.

In his maiden effort, Mr. W. H. Fraser (North Huron) made an excellent impression on the House, when he discussed farm problems. Because several candidates had been defeated in recent by-elections in order to send farmers to the Legislature was no proof that agriculturists were disgusted with the agricultural program of the Government. Farmer members desired to co-operate with the department.

During the last fifteen years 20 per cent. of the farm population had moved to the towns and cities. If conditions are not changed the exodus will be much greater, he said.

Mr. Fraser was not in favor of the Government's method of providing employment. He believed that the present method would keep the cost of labor so high that it would be difficult for the farmers to secure sufficient help.

If large building operations were necessary to provide work for the unemployed, Mr. Fraser urged that the money be spent in the construction of cold-storage warehouses, abattoirs and on extending the Hydro. This would prevent all the money being spent in a few places.

Continuing, Mr. Fraser declared that there was a growing sentiment in the Province in favor of having practical men at the head of various public departments. City men had the idea that farmers needed advice

and education. Half the money appropriated by the Agricultural Department was for that purpose.

"You might as well expect me to teach Eaton how to manufacture and sell goods, Mr. Bowerman here to teach Gooderham how to make whiskey, or Mr. Calder to lecture on corporation law to lawyers, as to expect a lawyer to make good as Minister of Agriculture, a newspaper reporter as his deputy, or a lumberman as an authority on agriculture," declared Mr. Fraser.

Government Commended.

Mr. W. C. Chambers (West Wellington) reviewed the many good things which, he said, the Government had done. He chided the Opposition for not having given credit to the Government for its good works. The speaker pleaded for co-operation between the country and the city, and deprecated any radical changes in the tariff. He lauded the work of the Hydro-electric Power Commission and the building of good roads.

Mr. John Grieve (North Middlesex) regretted that the Ontario Veterinary College was not fulfilling its whole mission. He regretted Canadian farmers' sons could not get as good a training as in American colleges. The educational system, he believed, was largely responsible for the exodus from the country to urban centres, but he did not favor reverting to old conditions. Mr. Grieve thought the farmers in Old Ontario were quite capable of looking after themselves, but he did not think there should be legislation passed against them.

Mr. Joseph Edgar (Parry Sound) believed that under the present Minister of Education a better system would be evolved than that in use in the past. Referring to the O. T. A., he said he had heard little objection to it, and it was a measure which had given much satisfaction to the people of his constituency.

Private Bills.

Several private bills were given second reading and referred to committee. The Government bills to amend the Provincial Parks Act, and for the better regulation of mines and mining words, were considered in committee. The latter bill will again be considered at some future date in committee.

The Opposition is seeking information as to the number of motor cars and other motor vehicles used by the various departments of the Government. A question has been placed on the order paper by Mr. U. Richardson (East Wellington), in which he asks this question. He is also asking if any other cars, other than those owned by the Province, are kept in the Government garages.