

SOLDIER M.P.P. ATTACKS DRURY ON FREE TRADE

Says Premier is Trying to
Force His Beliefs
on People

THE DEBATE IS LAGGING
Ideas on Reply to Speech
From Throne Becom-
ing Scarce

New ideas are becoming difficult to find and the debate on the reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature begins to lag. Yesterday afternoon and at the first night session last evening of the present House it was carried on. The outstanding speech was made by Sgt.-Major MacNamara, the Independent-Soldier candidate for Riverdale. Sgt.-Major MacNamara lives up to his title of "independent soldier." He sits on the Government side of the House, but he spoke against Premier Drury in the Halton by-election, and yesterday much of his criticism was again levelled at the Premier. He quoted exhaustively from statistics of various countries and left no doubt that he was for protection by a substantial tariff. It was on this ground that he criticized the Premier. His remarks were applauded by the Conservatives members.

J. W. Curry, Liberal member for Southeast Toronto, reached a high level in his contribution to the debate. He had sincere praise for the new Government and appealed for a higher form of political endeavor. Thomas Marshall (Lincoln), Dr. Forbes Godfrey (West York) and Col. W. H. Price (Parkdale), three veteran members of the House who survived the general disaster of the last election, also spoke in the debate.

Liberal Platform Adopted.

Thomas Marshall, Liberal member for Lincoln, outlined the platform of the Liberal party and ended by declaring that practically every item in the Government platform had been advocated by the Liberal party for years. Why the U.F.O. clubs could not have contented themselves with backing up the Liberal candidates he could not understand. "It was not necessary to form a Farmers' party to get farmers in the House," he stated. "The farmers are in the majority in the rural ridings. Had they turned out in force at the party conventions they could easily have nominated one of their own class."

Dr. Forbes Godfrey of West York, who followed the member for Lincoln, was ready to take up arms against the Government for placing the portfolio of Health with that of Labor. "Surely the head of a department like that of Health should be a man qualified by his previous life just as much as the Attorney-General," he said. A mistake in the Department of Health such as that made in the handling of the first influenza epidemic would cost the country thousands of lives. Dr. Godfrey explained that it was through lack of preparation that the mistake had been made in the handling of the influenza epidemic.

In reply to a question from Dr. Godfrey, Hon. Walter Rollo announced that arrangements had been completed with the city to build a reception hospital in Toronto. "Any money you spend on

a proposition of that kind is the best spent money you can spend," Dr. Godfrey replied.

Regarding the proposed referendum, Dr. Godfrey advised that the Province wait a little while.

Attacks Drury.

Sergt.-Major MacNamara attacked Premier Drury for trying to "jam his free trade beliefs down the throats of Canadians who do not want and will not have free trade.

"If the Honorable Prime Minister would take up his old battle cry of representation by population it would be more becoming to him and more beneficial to the Province than his battle cry of 'Down with the National Policy and up with free trade.'

"The Honorable Minister has never lived under free trade, and I have. I was born under a free trade system and I respectfully submit to him that he leave the tariff question alone."

The Premier's cries of calamity, hard times and free trade, the member from Riverdale said, had come down like snowflakes in December. He quoted extracts from speeches made by the Premier and declared that such speeches as these were "one reason why the Canadian dollar is decried on the New York Stock Exchange."

Unbounded applause from the Conservative benches greeted Sgt.-Major MacNamara's statements, and the faces along the Government side began to look gloomy.

Tribute to Premier.

J. Walter Curry, K.C., paid a glowing tribute to Premier Drury. It was fitting, he said, that the eldest son of the first Minister of Agriculture in the Province should be the Premier of the first Farmers' Government. Referring to Hon. Mr. Raney, he said that Mr. Drury had made a wise choice of an Attorney-General. I believe him determined to do his duty as he sees it, without fear or favor to anyone.

He appealed to both sides of the House to get together and try and get rid of the breeders of the common enemy, poverty, disease, ignorance and incompetence.

"What matters it what your platform is, what the platform of our friends to the right of us is, what our platform is, so long as by getting together we can select the best of each?" Mr. Curry continued.

He declared himself in favor of any amendment to the O.T.A. which would make it more effective.

Col. Price declared that if the Labor group failed to bring in an eight-hour-day proposal they would be tacitly admitting their subservience to the Farmer group. He also commented on the fact that nothing had been heard from the Labor men about stronger beer. Referring to the University invitation to Miss Jane Addams to speak here, Mr. Price said that it was not the time to invite such speakers to Canada. He congratulated the Minister of Education on the rejection of the offer from the Massey Foundation for a Commission.

J. W. Widdifield (North Ontario) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Gives Greater Assistance in Draining of Farm Land

Greater assistance in the cost entailed in underdraining farm land is sought in a bill to amend the Drainage and Tile Act introduced in the Legislature by R. L. Brackin, Liberal member for West Kent. The law at present allows townships to advance loans of \$1,000 to farmers for tile draining. There is no provision regarding acreage, and a man with 50 acres to drain can get as much on the loan as a man with 1,000 acres.

Mr. Brackin's amendment would increase the loan to \$2,000 per 100 acres. In many parts of western Ontario, where the land is very flat, tile drainage has been essential for the production of crops. The increasing cost of tile in the last few years and the limitation of loans has worked a hardship upon farmers.

Ample protection to the townships is given in the original bill, which gives the loan precedence over mortgages and other debts against farm lands.