

PREMIER GIVES BIGGS SUPPORT

Stands Behind Minister in
Connection With Roads
Policy

HESITATION ON LEFT

"Roads for all the people rather than a few people" is Premier Drury's concise declaration of policy as announced in the Legislature yesterday. The Opposition parties appear timid about breaking into any great criticism of the bills brought in by Hon. F. C. Biggs, Minister of Public Works and Highways, but they are keen about small matters, and hint at a kind of general doubt as to whether Mr. Biggs can swing his program. Premier Drury stood right behind his Minister yesterday, and on the general principles of the bill gave it a lift, which will appeal to the general public at least. He said it was not fair to spend township money on roads outside the township.

"Nor the cities?" queried Major Tolmie.

"Nor the cities," admitted the Premier, although he made a slight difference, in that cars from cities were constantly going out of the city.

"And back," finished Major Tolmie.

Ferguson is Skeptical.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson had doubts. His first doubt was about the Dominion grant being assured. He was informed that the good news was true, and that the grant would be forthcoming. His next doubt was as to whether the Dominion fund, applied to 1,800 miles of Provincial roads, would be sufficient to make the 40 per cent. of cost promised by the Minister of Highways. He figured it out at \$3,300 a mile. He was also a little fearful about the Province taking over these roads and paying maintenance costs before construction of the better highway was started. He could not see the wisdom of that plan. He could see a tremendous expenditure without any roads being built.

The Province, he said, should not take over maintenance until the roads had been actually built. The policy of the past Government had been to go more slowly.

Responsibility Lessened.

It would not have released the municipalities from responsibility until actual construction was completed. However, the Conservative Leader gave the Government credit for an ambitious program, and hoped it could do what was promised.

Mr. Biggs pointed out that the new program lessened the responsibility on Provincial highways from 60 to 40 per cent. and of municipalities from 40 to 20 per cent., the difference coming out of the Dominion grant.

When referring to the 1,800 miles of Provincial highways the Premier was interrupted by Hon. Geo. Henry, who said they were tourist roads.

"No, market roads—a very different thing," said the Premier.

Major Tolmie pressed for an explanation as to the difference between market and tourist highways. He wanted the Premier to tell what class of road was proposed and the estimated cost per mile.

As A. M. Rankin (Frontenac) moved the adjournment of the debate at this time, Major Tolmie deferred reply until the debate is continued.

APPEALS AGAINST "MONKEY WRENCH"

Nixon Deprecates Renewal of
Reception Hospital
Debate

A deputation representing various associations in Toronto and Ontario yesterday asked that the Government assist in the purchase of a site near the University of Toronto and General Hospital for the proposed Reception Hospital for mental cases. It was told by Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, not to "throw a monkey wrench into the machinery by blocking the proposals of the city," which has given a site at Trinity Park.

Mr. Nixon said that the argument of the deputation that the hospital should be near the University for educational purposes had its merits, and would be considered. He thought, however, that the crowded section of the downtown district where the site proposed was located was not so desirable. The policy, he said, was to get plenty of fresh air and light, and have rural conditions.

Dr. Harvey Clare, Superintendent of the present Receiving Hospital, quoted some interesting figures showing that care in the early stages saved many from the asylums. He argued that it was impossible to limit the patients to Toronto. He saw great educational needs in the matter of mental diseases, stating that in this matter only a limited number of physicians were fitted. "We want all doctors to know about mental diseases," he said.

Need Training Facilities.

The speakers for the deputation, which was received by Hon. R. H. Grant, Minister of Education, as well as the Provincial Secretary, were:—D. A. Dunlap, Dr. A. McPhedran, Dr. Geo. S. Strathy and Dr. Horace L. Brittain. Dr. McPhedran was in favor of having the Reception Hospital near the General, as it could use part of the equipment of the latter, and because if isolated it engendered public antipathy and was regarded as an asylum.

Dr. Strathy argued the need of University association, which would make for a better training of medical students in mental diseases, and also give the hospital the benefit of University facilities. Dr. Brittain thought the University should have the same connection with the new hospital as it had with the General. Dr. E. E. King argued that they could not throw up the Trinity site if nothing further were coming immediately. He favored a site near the University and General Hospital, however. Dr. Hincks said that four sites near the General Hospital could be purchased for less than \$100,000 each—the amount requested from the Government by the deputation.