

HURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1921.

LABOR MEMBER FAVORS POLICY OF BROADENING

Carl Homuth, M.P.P. for
South Waterloo, Says
Drury is Right

DEBATE IN LEGISLATURE

Member for South Lanark
Advises Return of
Model Schools

Opening discussion in the Ontario Legislature on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne proceeded leisurely yesterday. Two Government supporters, W. J. Johnston, U.F.O. member for South Lanark, and K. K. Homuth, Labor member for South Waterloo, moved and seconded the reply, and their speeches were principally congratulatory of the Government's administration.

Mr. Homuth expressed the opinion that the desertion from the Government ranks of M. M. MacBride, Labor member for South Brant, had not in any way detracted from the energies and abilities of the Government group. With that one little thrust the Government presented a placid and smiling countenance to the hide-hunters of the other side, and, through its spokesmen of the day, even went so far as to congratulate Hon. G. Howard Ferguson on his appointment as Leader of the Conservative party.

Concurrence in Labor Committee.

Before the orders of the day were

called, H. H. Dewart, K.C., inquired of the Attorney-General if it might not be possible to have announced in The Ontario Gazette such orders in Council as are passed from week to week. The Attorney-General promised a reply to-day. Before adjournment Premier Drury moved for the appointment of the Labor Legislation Committee. Hon. Mr. Ferguson required assurance that the committee would have just the same functions and limitations as other committees, then the House concurred.

In moving the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, W. J. Johnston, U.F.O. member for South Lanark, expressed the opinion that the extension of Hydro power to rural districts would in a great measure assist in arresting farm depopulation. Rural mothers and others, he declared, had every bit as much right to the usage of labor-saving electrical appliances as had the city mothers and fathers.

Government Control of Hydro.

"I say," he proceeded, "that this Government should endeavor to make the Hydro-electric Commission more amenable to Government control. I maintain that this commission should be obliged to place its estimates before this House in exactly the same manner as any of the other departments of this Government." In his opinion there was "something very wrong" with a commission which had under-estimated its financial requirements for six or seven months by \$19,000,000. When he complimented the Premier upon his courage and strength of will in

instituting the Hydro-radial probe he was applauded by U.F.O. members.

Hon. Mr. Biggs' road policy, he said, was one which would find support among all sections of the people, provided the Minister secured a dollar's worth of material and labor for every dollar expended. After making particular reference to the good roads requirements of the Ottawa district, he said the Government ought to compel towns separated from counties for municipal purposes to come into the counties for road purposes. He instanced a town in his own riding that had escaped its obligations for 18 years.

Would Restore Model Schools.

Mr. Johnston went on to approve the establishment of the new two-year course at Guelph O. A. C. for practical rather than academic tuition. He suggested that it might be wise for the Minister of Education to provide a system of model schools for, say, five years, to remedy the dearth of teachers, and congratulated Hon. Manning Doherty upon his efforts to have lifted the British embargo against Canadian cattle.

If the suggestion contained in the Speech from the Throne, to erect a suitable memorial to Ontario's fallen soldiers, was to be carried out, the member for South Lanark thought nothing more suitable could be done than to construct a sanitarium for crippled and diseased soldiers.

Favors "Broadening Out."

In seconding the Address, Carl Homuth, Labor member for South Waterloo, approved Premier Drury's idea of a broadening out of the U. F. O. party into a People's Progressive party. "Here we have the people's party," he said, "and here we have the progressive party, and there are a great many people in the Province of Ontario who feel that because it is called U. F. O. or Labor they can hardly get under the banner simply because of the name. The name does, perhaps, suggest class legislation, which is far from the fact. By calling it the People's Progressive party there is no doubt but that a good many people will rush to get on the platform."

Labor Thoroughly Sane.

Mr. Homuth had no fears for the stability and sanity of Canadian labor. Time after time in the various elections, he pointed out, Labor men of ideas destructive rather than constructive had been turned down by the Labor people. He expressed the opinion that the Government, in order to lessen unemployment, should proceed as soon as possible with every bit of work. He endorsed the appointment of a Labor Legislation Committee. While he was not in accord with a principle of pampering the people of the Province, Mr. Homuth expressed the

opinion that there should be provided public hospital accommodation and medical attention for such people as were unable to afford medical attention when it was required.
The House will resume its deliberations at 3 o'clock this afternoon.