

Ferguson in Kemptville on Friday night and Premier Drury's conference with Premier Meighen and Premier Norris of Manitoba at Ottawa on Monday over Lake of the Woods levels.

Civil Service Criticism.

Mr. Dewart expressed strong approval of the Premier's intention to bring about the formation of a Committee on Labor Legislation. Coming more directly to the burden of his address, the Liberal Leader made a slashing attack on the manner in which the Civil Service was being administered. One-man power had been adopted, he declared, and this had brought about "widespread disgust and, in many instances, distress, only too visible throughout the ranks of the Civil Service." The Civil Service Commissioner, the speaker stated, was a man utterly devoid of business training and experience, yet he was placed in sole and absolute charge of highly-skilled and experienced servants of the public. He ventured to say further that were any such power placed in the hands of any one man in any factory or institution an instant strike would result. The Premier had not implemented his promise of last session by giving information to the leaders of the other parties in the House of vacancies and changes in regard to which all parties were to have the right to make recommendations.

He would continue to press for legislation which would establish a real commission, on which each of the four parties in the House would be represented, on which the Civil Service Association would have its own representative and to which the Premier might act as Chairman.

Digs Up Old Speeches.

The Liberal Leader's comments upon the "broadening out" of the Farmers' movement were largely retrospective in character. He chose excerpts from addresses delivered by Premier Drury, J. J. Morrison, and R. W. E. Burnaby and from articles in the Farmers' Sun dating back a year or further. From varied utterances of the Premier he had come to the conclusion that the latter was a "political chameleon, with a wonderful facility for changing his political hue to suit the company that he keeps."

Mr. Dewart referred to an address made by Premier Drury at Fenelon Falls, in which the view was expressed that "between the U. F. O. and the dead, defunct and discredited Liberal organization there can be neither amalgamation, unification nor endorsement." He further quoted the sentiment of the then President Halbert of the U. F. O., as uttered at Woodstock in July, 1919, to the effect that no "Grit or Tory should ever be on that platform, even if we have to use bare knuckles to keep them off."

"But the Leader of the Farmers' group has 'broadened out' since then," Mr. Dewart continued. "It is a far call from these declarations in June and July of 1919 to the Premier's utterances at Chatham in December last and at Milton in the present month. But the S. O. S. has been sent out and the watchword now is, 'Whosoever will may come.'"

The real process of "broadening out" apparently had begun at Chatham, on the occasion when the Premier's utterances, according to himself, had been misquoted by the morning Press. In this connection the speaker felt that no man in public life seemed to have the misfortune of being so often misquoted or misunderstood. According to a statement of the Premier to the Farmers' Sun, he had said at Chatham, in part:

"We must of necessity broaden out and take in other people of like minds. In doing so, I added, even the name of the party would probably have to be superseded, and if I were to suggest a name I would suggest the name of the 'Peoples' Progressive party.'"

Further, Mr. Dewart declared, the Premier, speaking at Milton during the present month, had definitely said that the Farmers could not and should not rule the country, but should welcome to their ranks sympathetic outsiders. Following this, leaders of the Farmers' movement, notably Messrs. Morrison and Burnaby, had openly disagreed with Hon. Mr. Drury, in proof of which the speaker quoted extracts from addresses or statements made by these gentlemen.

Commenting upon an editorial appearing in the Farmers' Sun of September 29, 1919, Mr. Dewart drew the inference that the "broadening out" movement might imply the use of methods employed by some manufacturers whose example the Farmers' Sun proposed to adopt, but to whose policy and methods Liberalism was definitely opposed. The editorial in question dealt, in part, with the necessity of the adoption by farmers generally of some policy whereby food production might be regulated to market demands. With any policy such as that outlined for farmers by their organ, Mr. Dewart stated, the Liberal party had no sympathy.

Inquiries About the Recall.

Proceeding to the plank in the Farmers' platform favoring recall, Mr. Dewart cited the case of Captain Mowbray, a member of the U.F.O., who could not secure nomination in East Kent unless prepared to accept the principle of the recall. "Was this pledge demanded of the present Minister of Agriculture when a seat was prepared for him in East Kent?" asked the Liberal Chieftain. "Was this pledge demanded of the Attorney-General when an adjustment was made so that he might accept the seat in East Wellington? Was this pledge demanded of the Premier when he coveted the vineyards of Halton?"

"When this triumvirate, without having been elected by the suffrages of the people at a general election, were selected to govern the Province they were returned without the pledges that were demanded of those who had appealed upon the Farmers' platform at the general election."

Liberals Tilled the Ground.

Analyzing the vote at the last Provincial election, the speakers demanded to know why a candidate for the U.F.O. had been nominated in Lennox against a Liberal standing for the same principles, thus permitting a Conservative victory. "In the campaign of 1919," the speaker declared, "the Liberal party showed the broadness of its policy and of its valued views by refraining from nominating candidates in thirty-nine constituencies and enabling the United Farmers to return as the party with the largest numerical strength in the House. We tilled the ground, we sowed the seed, but we have to admit that some of the harvest hands came in and took a larger share of the crop than those who had sown the grain."

"And to-day," he continued, "I say there is room for the Farmers of the Province of Ontario and for the fair-minded Labor men in the Province of Ontario in alliance with or as a part of a party which was good enough for the Premier's father and for my father—for my honorable friend and for myself as late at 1917. It is a party which has enunciated a platform and policy which is democratic and progressive. It is a party which is giving fair-minded support to fair legislation—whether it comes from farmer or artisan—for the advancement of urban and rural interests, for the professional man or for the

merchant or business man, for the interest of honest and decent sport or to protect religious and moral welfare. It is a party that stands against fraud—for the protection of the public domain and for the recovery of the moneys to which the people of this Province are justly entitled."

Autocratic Exercise of Power.

Claiming that it was not "broadening out" to talk of throwing into the "scrap-heap" the Liberal party, or to adopt a policy of "sniping or looking around for the damaged and bruised windfalls dropped from party trees, or to permit groups being used to exploit "the legal fads and crotchets of a theorist whom the exigencies of your position have clothed with a little brief authority," the Leader of the Liberal group warned the Premier that the manifest intention of the so-called broadening out was not co-operation between those holding similar views and progressive ideas, but "the autocratic exercise of the power of government by absorption and by the elimination of opposition." When the time came, he concluded, his party would appeal to the people in confidence, "having stood upon a platform that needs no 'broadening out,' because men of every creed and class and every section of the community will know that, whoever may have fallen by the wayside, we have not proved un-