

that it was attempting to govern by commission. He justified the appointment of the Hydro-radials Commission by saying that the proposed radials agreements left the municipalities responsible if Hydro-radials were successful, and the Province responsible if they were a failure.

Briefly, but with convincing detail, he reviewed the legislation of last session, and generously accorded credit to opposing groups for their sympathetic support. He appealed for a continuation of their co-operation during the present session. If it were forthcoming he felt that last year's "grand legislative record" could be equalled.

The Premier spoke to a friendly House, and applause was almost as generously accorded to the left as to the right of the Speaker. The galleries were almost as crowded as on opening day, as many women as men attending to hear the Premier. When the Premier concluded his address of little more than an hour's duration he was given warm applause from all sections.

Nothing But Compliments.

Premier Drury said he ought to compliment Hon. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dewart, Conservative and Liberal Leaders, for the unconscious tributes they had paid to the Government in their addresses. "I looked for a great deal of criticism," Premier Drury stated, "but I found nothing but compliments." Mr. Dewart had only one serious fault to find, he said, and Hon. Mr. Ferguson had none.

The Liberal Leader's chief point of complaint, the Premier said, was the appointment of what he termed the "one-man power Civil Service Commission." "I find," the Premier said, "that it was one of the offices we inherited and have not shaken. I find that the office was created in the session of 1918 and that my honorable friend from Southwest Toronto had a place in that legislation." Although the commissioner was not the appointee of the Drury Government the Premier declared he had found him to be actuated by zeal for the welfare of the Province.

"This Government," he proceeded, "can look back and say it has been actuated only by one motive in making appointments, and that has been the motive of getting the right man for the right place. We have appointed no one because of previous party connection."

The Serious Step.

It had been impossible, the Premier said, to announce last session the appointment of the Hydro-radial Commission because the circumstances that made its appointment necessary did not arise until after adjournment. "The appointing of that commission," he said, "was a serious step, a step in which the Government took its political life into its hands, a step we would not have taken had we been playing politics, had we not been actuated by a desire to serve the people of the Province. It was not politics, it was very impolitical so far as politics, as understood in the past, go."

"Both Leaders of the Opposition groups," the Premier went on, "seemed to take a great deal of pains to explain why they were not in power. I find all sorts of reasons advanced. It seemed to me like a sort of winding up, or a giving of account to a receivership of the fortunes of the old parties. It seemed to me that both gentlemen misinterpreted the situation, that they were treating political evolution, political development, as though it did not exist.

"If these gentlemen would look a little closer into their own records they would see, perhaps, there vital reasons for the thing that has taken place. The bane of party politics, as we have had them during the last few years, has been the lack of sincerity."

Did Mr. Dewart Know?

The Premier referred to the opposition of H. H. Dewart, K.C., to a measure introduced last session to tax improvements on a lower basis than land. And yet that principle, he said, was one of the planks in the Liberal platform. "I would like to give my own guess," the Premier added, "that the honorable gentleman did not know it was in the

platform. Is it any wonder that The Globe was shocked at this sudden change?"

He twitted Hon. Mr. Ferguson upon his admission that the Conservative Government, when in power, had hosts of things under way, but none of them ready. In the last year of a "do something" Government, he said, a forestry policy that had lain dormant 16 years had been launched in the Province and already six counties—Simcoe, Durham, Norfolk, Ontario, York and Northumberland—had taken advantage of the Government's offer of co-operation and were establishing municipally-owned forests.

The same situation may have existed, he said, in regard to the Mothers' Pensions and educational betterment. The Conservative Government may have "proposed" certain things, but again the tree did not bring forth. "Who was it said," the Premier asked, "the saddest work of tongue or pen is 'it might' have been'?"

The People's Party.

The Premier advised the Leaders of the Liberal and Conservative groups not to take too seriously newspaper statements of fact concerning the Farmers' Government. "I would advise them not to pay too much attention to any gossip they may hear about us. It is not wise to get your ears open too wide. You may hear a good deal that is not true and be put off the track of things that are really important. Who can predict the future of political parties in this country when, as I said, the two historic parties are apparently in liquidation?"

"When over a year ago I was asked to accept the Leadership I announced plainly and without equivocation what I believed should be the policy of the party. That policy has never been questioned. It stands." The Premier then quoted his stand as enunciated over a year ago, to the effect that the Government represents in a very real sense not alone the farmers, but all classes, and would expand and broaden out "until it shall become not only a Farmers' party, but in a very real sense a People's party.

"It has never been challenged, never questioned," he declared. "On that declaration I stand to-day. And I am glad to say this, that while I believe in the beginning we had only a minority of the people behind us, now the breadth of our platform appeals to others besides farmers.

"Quotations have been read from the columns of The Farmers' Sun as though the Government were accountable for every line that appears in The Sun, even when it is taken from the news lines—and probably distorted. We have no party Press. We recognize the independence of the Press and we reserve our own independence from that source."

From The Globe of last year he quoted an editorial comment complimenting the Government on its "excellent" results attained. Neither The Globe nor The Mail and Empire, which also gave credit, he said, could be regarded as a Government organ. "We have more to do," he said, "than to bicker over small things. We did a grand thing last year so far as legislation is concerned. And this session we will welcome co-operation of anyone, no matter where he sits in the House.

"If we are any good, if we are fulfilling the trust the people have reposed in us, we are not to make party differences or class differences. We are here to use our best brains in shaping good legislation. Last session we did that.

"There was a charge that the Government has shirked responsibility. During the last session the Government has shown no lack of courage in assuming responsibility on great questions. We will stand or fall by our administrative record. I hope we will duplicate the grand record we made last year. I have been giving credit freely during the summer to the whole House, speaking over the whole country, because I think it is a thing that ought not to be—any body of men divided into two groups, taking advantage of each other and neglecting the work they were elected for."

Attitude on Hydro.

He did not intend, he said, to desert either responsibility or friends in dealing with matters relating to