

the great Hydro-electric enterprise. "The attitude of this Government toward public ownership of the water developments is plain. It is a plank in the platform on which we were elected. We believe in public ownership of public utilities."

The Government's action in securing additional power during the power shortage last year, he instanced, was an indication of belief in the Hydro project. And no one could tell, the Premier said, how far that move on the part of the Government influenced the final electrical clean-up on advantageous terms. It had been rumored, he said, that the company had hoped to force such a power shortage in the Province as to force the hands of the Province. Legislation, he said, would be introduced to validate the electrical clean-up, and it was a purchase that the Government could recommend to the House.

"It was necessary, however," he said, "that the Government should raise a question as to the Hydro-radials—a question as to whether the Province should grant fifty odd millions of bonds for Hydro-radial development. It meant, if we had gone into it, that the Province was entering a field so far held by the Dominion Government. It was not even a question of competition between Provincially-owned railways and privately-owned railways. It would be a question of paralleling Provincially-owned railways and publicly-owned railways under the management of the Dominion Government."

Province Responsible.

"We have asserted that that matter is far too serious to go on with with the meagre information at our hand. It is all very well to say that it is a matter that belongs to the municipalities. As a matter of fact, in this proposition the municipalities were responsible if the thing was a success, and if the thing was a failure the Province alone was responsible."

M. M. MacBride, South Brant, interrupted to ask why the Government did not itself secure the information and accept full responsibility, instead of forming an irresponsible commission outside the House. The Premier replied that the Government members were already overburdened with work and responsibilities. "I know," the Premier said, "that there has been the intimation that we have tried to govern by commission, but it is absolutely untrue." He approved the principle of the "old, tried Royal Commission of Inquiry."

Mr. MacBride—I notice that the Government had been spending a good deal of time at the U.F.O. picnics and thought, therefore, it would have time to get the information desired.

Premier Drury—Mr. Speaker, we need a little recreation.

Get Power to Rural Parts.

The Premier went on to criticize Hon. Mr. Ferguson's note of pessimism when referring to the Government's elaborate good roads policy. Rural Ontario, the Premier said, needed good roads more than anything else. He reiterated his declaration that he was not prepared to endorse the Hydro Committee's report in all its details, but he agreed that it was vitally necessary to get power to the rural districts, not perhaps as cheaply as the towns and cities received it, but at a price the farmer could afford to pay.

"There is a large program of legislation," the Premier declared. In it would be matters pertaining to Labor, and in this connection he endorsed the appointment of a committee to deal with Labor matters. "It marks the fact," he said, "that the people are beginning to find that a man is a good deal better than a sheep." Attorney-General Raney, he said, would proceed with matters relating to the consolidation of the law, and there would be amendments to the Election Act.

He concluded with another appeal for co-operation. "The one thing I want to avoid," he said, "is the interjection of mere quibbling and useless opposition when it comes to placing legislation on the statute books. If we get the same splendid co-operation this session as we had last session I believe we can make as good a record and place as good legislation on the statute books as was placed there last session."

Sam. Clarke's Congratulations.

Sam. Clarke (West Northumberland) complimented the representatives of Labor who had spoken, Messrs. Homuth and Crockett, upon the reasonable tenor of their remarks, especially in regard to the eight-hour day. If Labor generally took the same breadth of view, his opinion was that it would have a friend in almost every citizen of the Province. Hon. Mr. Doherty, too, was to be congratulated upon his efforts to secure the removal of the British embargo upon Canadian cattle, an embargo that, in his opinion, was not merely unjust but absurd.

In the matter of mothers' pensions, Mr. Clarke stated that the Conservative party had been "talking for years" about that and similar legislation. Now that Premier Drury had gone from words to deeds, Hon. Mr. Ferguson was complaining that Conservative legislation had been purloined. He had said, practically, that everything had been ready for action; all that Premier Drury had to do was to "press the button."

"If I were the Premier I should leave that button alone," declared the plain-spoken member from Northumberland. "It might bring the whole bunch back. Thank goodness, that button is useless. It had its day, but its day is past. Things have changed; I think, for the better."

The Conservative party had accomplished some good things in its day, the speaker admitted, but that was before the day of some of those now present. It had got along well enough until "the brush was cleared away." Its house was kept in a state of order to suit itself, and if it had left some "rubbish" when it left that house, it might be excused because of the hasty nature of its exit or the advent of Druryism. Some of the "rubbish" had been set out to public gaze; some of it had brought about a good deal of discussion.

Smooth and Clever.

The Leader of the Conservative wing of the Opposition, in the opinion of the speaker, was "smooth" and clever, and able to play the political game with any. His acceptance of the Leadership of the party remnant was a tribute to his "smoothness"; it had been taken in the face of certain charges publicly laid at the doors of the late Administration, and on the ground that "offensive leadership" was required were that party to weather the storm that threatened. Hon. Mr. Ferguson had complained that he was the victim of a conspiracy on the part of Messrs. Dewart, Raney and Drury. "That man in a conspiracy?" asked Mr. Clarke, pointing to the Premier. "That's the innocent farmer from Crown Hill—the farmer who has risen to be the chief man in his native Province. Thank God, he's one of the biggest and most honorable men in the Province of Ontario to-day!"

Further, the Conservative Leader had charged the Premier with class legislation. He had talked much of the present conditions of prosperity on Ontario farms. Such talk, the speaker declared, was all for a purpose; it was a part of a political game. His own Leader (Mr. Dewart), he continued, had found fault also, alleging "class legislation." As regards these objections, he would advise the Premier: "Don't worry." In his opinion, there was no need for worry. "I challenge any fair-minded man in this House," he stated, "be he Labor, Conservative or Liberal (that covers the bunch), to find much fault, or any fault, with the administration of the honorable gentleman up to the present time."

No Chance for Morrison.

Mr. Clarke touched upon the "broadening out" issue by assuring Premier Drury that nothing bigger, broader or better could be secured than a People's party. Much of the talk following recent utterances of Hon. Mr. Drury, had upset the public mind unnecessarily. "It almost incites the people of this Province to believe that Morrison is going to run away with the Premier," he opined. "He'll never run away with him! Look at that jaw, gentlemen. Why, there's no chance of such a