

ALLEGES LABOR REMISS IN DUTY ON 8-HOUR DAY

MacBride of Brantford Says There's Pact Not to Embarrass Farmers

HAS LOTS OF CRITICISM

He Tells Drury Government Wherein It Has Failed So Far

Speaking for the first time from the Opposition benches in the Legislature, to which he moved at the beginning of the session, M. M. MacBride, Independent Labor member for South Brant, bitterly attacked Labor's representatives in the Drury Cabinet for their failure to bring before the House eight-hour-day legislation.

He charged them with being under a pact with the Premier not to embarrass the Government by its introduction, and declared that in so doing they had jumped the principal plank upon which they were elected. Referring to the eight-hour national working day clause in the Peace Treaty, he declared: "We are a thousand times worse than the United States if we sign the peace pact and refuse to carry out the terms it contains."

Mutual Admiration.

In opening his address Mr. MacBride said the general tenor of the debate so far had been that of a mutual admiration society.

"I noticed how carefully the Premier skated around that broadening-out policy," he proceeded. "You could not tell from his remarks yesterday whether he was prepared to broaden out, flatten out, expand or contract, nor could you tell where he stood. We on this side of the House have a pretty good idea why the Premier took that attitude." He took it that the Premier was "ashamed of his horse."

The member for South Brant attacked the sincerity of the Premier in some of his utterances. He doubted his sincerity, he said, when he stood up and told the old political parties that all their leaders of the past were men who lacked sincerity. "I think there have been some excellent men leading the old political parties in Canada," he declared, and went on to enumerate some Canadian statesmen.

Quoting from a speech of the Premier of November 19, 1920, Mr. MacBride concluded from utterances therein that there was a pact "whereby they would not embarrass the Government" by the introduction of eight-hour-day legislation, which the speaker characterized "one of the principal and leading planks in the Labor platform."

Mr. Biggs Not Taking Orders.

Another quotation from the Premier which he read and commented upon was that declaring the Government's attitude as favorable to good roads for the back-concession farmers. Hon. Mr. Biggs, Minister of Public Works, declared Mr. MacBride, apparently had not taken dictation from the Premier in formulating his good roads policy. Still another quotation was the Premier's declaration in favor of free trade.

"I want to tell you Farmers and you Labor men," he proceeded, "that if you take down all the barriers and turn this country loose to the big monopolistic organizations of the United States, backed by the gold of Wall Street, then you will be nation destroyers and not nation builders. While we admit exploitation on the part of some hungry profiteers, it would be ten thousand times worse if we were to turn this country over to the encroachments and exploitations of that gang on Wall Street. If the Premier undertakes to go to Ottawa on the free trade horse I will be down there blocking his road for all that I am worth."

Criticizes Mothers' Pensions.

"I want to tell you," he declared, "your Mothers' Pension Act is not giving satisfaction in the Province of Ontario. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves to dole out meagre allowances of \$40 or \$50 a month to mothers with four and five children and call that an allowance. It has proven a charity measure of the worst kind."

Hon. Walter Rolfe promptly challenged the statement of Mr. MacBride, when the latter said he had been humiliated at the Windsor Trades and Labor Congress to hear the Minister of Labor admit that if the Labor group in the House pressed for eight-hour-day legislation the Government would not give them Mothers' Compensation allowances. Declaration and denial were hurled across the floor until Mr. Speaker had to rule that the Minister of Labor's word ought to be accepted. Mr. MacBride accepted it for the moment, but promised to bring the minutes of the gathering to prove his assertion.

On Workmen's Compensation, too, he attacked the Government for their meagreness of allowances. Instead of 66 2-3 per cent. the speaker thought 75 per cent. ought to be the minimum.

Again Mr. MacBride got into controversy with K. K. Homuth, Labor member for South Waterloo, when he charged him with having had James Simpson upon his election platform. Here again Mr. MacBride promised to produce proofs of his assertions. Mr. Homuth characterized the statement as "absolutely incorrect." Then the member for South Brant went on to remind the Cabinet Ministers of a banquet in Toronto, attended by some of their numbers, at which Mr. Simpson presided.

Concerning the new Labor Legislation Committee, he said: "If you attempt to use the committee of this House as a sewer down which to throw Labor legislation there is going to be scrapping on the floor of this House."

Scents Patronage System.

Referring to a matter regarding which he had placed a question upon the order paper, viz: a return of all correspondence between the Attorney-General or other members of the U.F.O. and Labor groups and J. W. Mallon, Mr. MacBride charged the Attorney-General with helping to set up "the most damnable patronage system imaginable," whereby a few men specially selected in each constituency would be an advisory board to the Government in connection with Civil Service appointments and the general administration of justice.

Hon. Mr. Raney—There is no foundation in fact for the question the honorable member has on the order paper. His denunciations are founded on cloud and air; perhaps gas.

The member from Brant then quoted from a letter, which he alleged had come from the Premier, in which reference was made to the selection by members of constituents to advise the Government, locally, upon certain matters. Asked by the Attorney-General to table immediately a letter he claimed to have received from Mr. Mallon, the member from Brant promised to comply at an early date.

Other Things He Doesn't Like.

Speaking on O. T. A. matters Mr. MacBride condemned the Attorney-General's methods of having spotters employed to secure convictions.