

Mr. MacBride professed himself utterly sick of the muck-raking going on over the timber controversy. If the Government had any charges to level at any member on either side of the House let them declare their position. This hounding of public men, he said, was driving the best brains of the country from public life.

The speaker declared he had found himself in excellent company after crossing the floor of the House.

Attitude of Mr. Halcrow.

G. G. Halcrow of Hamilton, Labor, stated that to force the matter of the eight-hour day at the moment would be a crime against the Province, and eulogized the idea of a conference upon that controversial item prior to any attempt at legislation. The Labor members, he said, believed that they could accomplish more from the Government benches than by sitting on the left of the Speaker and indulging in destructive criticism. In the past year the Government had given service unequalled by any former Administration.

"I have no intention of doing anything that would terminate the life of the Government," said Mr. Halcrow. "At the same time, there are a great many questions upon which I differ from the Government and upon which I intend to vote against them." This difference of opinion, however, was not confined to Labor, but had its place among the members of each group in the House. In regard to Labor legislation, the Labor group would be a unit; on other matters it became the duty of each member to follow his conscience. He was sorry to see the Backus deal put into effect, yet was not disposed to criticize too severely the action of the Government under the circumstances.

Some exception to paragraphs in the addresses in reply to the Speech relative to the effects of deflation on prices of rural products was taken by R. R. Hall of Parry Sound, Liberal. To his mind, he stated, the farmers were not suffering unduly; perhaps some of them, during the past four years, had prospered more than they deserved. At the same time he urged the extension of the good roads movement, provided "dollar-for-dollar" were secured in construction work. Rural credits also he deemed highly desirable on the condition that borrowing for the mere sake of borrowing be made very difficult.

Forests Are Murdered.

"Things have been done and said by members on the other side of the House that were not to our liking," said Mr. Hall, "but when it came to a vote we did not desert them. Why not? Because most of them belong to us, anyway. We didn't desert them, nor do we intend to desert them on coming similar occasions."

Regarding reforestation, he could speak feelingly, being from Northern Ontario. He had seen the forest literally murdered, and that by all Governments alike. This murder was being continued to-day, when lumber companies were being allowed to take out timber measuring no more than five inches across the stump. The present fire-ranging system, he said, was an utter farce. It cost enormous sums to maintain, but it saved no fires. Why talk reforestation when plunder and pillage were allowed to continue at this moment? It was all very well to discuss the reforesting of sandy areas in Old Ontario. Why not reforest the original white pine areas of the North?—areas entirely useless and menacing to-day because of the terms under which they had been given to lumber companies.