

expenditure, but before definitely deciding upon the matter it was essential that they should know whether the mills could count upon a continuous supply of wood, as contemplated in their original agree-

ment, or must they shut down and scrap the plant, with its four million dollar investment, as soon as its present supply was exhausted. I told them that the policy of the Government was to maintain and develop on a sound basis our forestry industry, and assured them that an ample supply of raw material would be available to their plant on proper terms. The effect of the war on the financial situation rendered it impossible for them to go on with their plans at that time. Some time in the winter or spring of 1919 the company came to me again and said they were now in a position to secure the money to carry out their expansion plans if they could rely upon the raw material sufficient to maintain the industry. I repeated my assurance to them. I pointed out, however, that before anything definite could be decided an area would have to be delimited and a cruise of the territory and a valuation and general report would have to be made.

"Later on in the summer they advised me that they had arranged with their bankers for their financial requirements, and asked then that the assurance already given them be put in writing. Negotiations had reached a stage where it became necessary that it should be made a matter of record in the department. I directed them to put their application in writing and I would give them a written reply.

Company Needed Territory.

"It will be readily seen by the House and the public that the statement in *The Farmers' Sun* has not a shadow of foundation; in fact, the negotiations were of an ordinary business character. One of our largest forestry industries found itself with sufficient wood to carry on for only a few years. They asked to be assured that they would be maintained as a cutting concern on fair terms. The department merely reserved an area tributary to this plant, from which at a later date, after full information had been acquired, territory could be set apart from which cutting rights would be given to this company upon proper terms.

"The article in *The Sun* reads:

"A most extraordinary circumstance" was the way Mr. Justice Riddell described the manner in which three letters had been taken from the files of the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines, and later returned. These letters contained the promise of the Hon. Howard Ferguson to give away 5,000 square miles of forest to the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Company.

"Again I say this is the vilest kind of slander. There were no letters removed from the files of the department, and no letter contained a promise to give any territory to any company.

Vigorous Comment.

"A letter written to Mr. Meade on October 30, after the election, was put into the distribution drawer and evidently was inadvertently carried away with my private files. When my Secretary discovered it he immediately took it to the department and left it, with his explanation. The contemptible insinuation that there was an attempt to suppress something is almost beneath notice. I would like to draw the attention of the public to the postscript in my letter to Mr. Meade in which I specifically said that I was retaining a copy of Mr. Smith's letter for the official files.

"Ordinarily it would be difficult for one to understand how such gross misstatements of fact could be made. In the present instance, however, it can readily be accounted for from the comment and conduct of the commissioners conducting this so-called inquiry, which undoubtedly were made to inflame the public mind for political purposes."

LABOR ATTACK ON MACBRIDE

"Less Said of Him the
Better," Comments
C. F. Swayze

DEBATE IN LEGISLATURE

At the close of yesterday's session of the Legislature, C. F. Swayze, Labor member for Niagara Falls, departed from formal cut-and-dried comment upon the Speech from the Throne, and paid his respects to certain members, notably to his erstwhile colleague, M. M. MacBride, Labor member for South Brant. In one caustic reference he disposed of the latter member. "Perhaps the less said of him the better." was the terse comment of the Labor Whip. "He says that he knows where he stands. It is well that he does, for no one else does."

Likes Administration.

The member for Niagara Falls announced himself as the protagonist of the claims of thousands in the work-a-day world who suffer from the lack of offensive and defensive organization. He accepted the Drury Administration on its record rather than on his label, and pledged to it the hearty support of the group with which he happens to be connected.

"I am not working for organized Labor alone, though I sit among its representatives," declared the speaker. "I am working as well for those who have to struggle along without organization—for the telephone operators, for the scrub women in the offices down town. It is up to us to protect those unfortunates who have not sufficient organization to protect themselves, the thousands who labor but stand outside the ranks of organized Labor as we know it."

Much Still to be Done.

"The magic of this Government," he continued, "is not in its name at all, but in the record of the legislation it put into effect last session. It has accomplished great things, and it has ahead of it a great deal yet to accomplish." Among these latter, he felt, was the problem of the eight-hour day. He had no doubt whatever that the day was coming when it would apply in all lines of industrial endeavor. "At the same time," he admitted, "it would be foolish for one Province to adopt it and not another."

Other work lay ahead, scarcely less urgent. He referred in particular to the evils of a system that permitted the enormous annual waste of foodstuffs in his own constituency. Production was of little avail if the fruit of the Niagara orchards could not efficiently be distributed.

"I want to tell the public that the man to blame for the cost of fruit to consumers is not the farmer, but the fellow in between," said Mr. Swayze. "Some of the grapes that brought the growers in Niagara district this year some \$87 per ton sold at points in the United States for more than \$400 per ton. It is the middleman who is taking the toll.

Scores Militarism.

"Cut out the military training in your schools and replace it with athletic training, and make your boys and girls build up their bodies so that they may be fit for service should the need arise," went on the speaker. "Provide better technical schools in the cities and better agri-