

HENRY ATTACKS ROADS POLICY

Charges Waste and Inefficiency in Biggs' Administration

COSTS ARE TOO HIGH

Charging wastefulness in Government expenditures and inefficiency of work performed, Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Agriculture in the late Hearst Government, bitterly attacked the roads policy of Hon. F. C. Biggs in the Ontario Legislature last night.

"It is a crying shame," he declared, amid Conservative applause, "that the Province, out of the Provincial Treasury, should pay 20 per cent. in some municipalities of this Province doing their work under statute labor." He proceeded to declare that the Minister of Public Highways could find no justification for assisting township roads unless he was going to better conditions and do away entirely with statute labor.

In criticizing the changes in highways administration effected by Hon. Mr. Biggs, he declared that the present Administration was spending greater sums on poorer work than had been performed in York county. He said that the department had let one contract at \$1.30 per yard for work on Yonge street on which the late Government had had a tender from the same contractor at 98 cents per yard.

"No contract has been let on Yonge street," retorted the Minister of Public Works, Hon. Mr. Biggs.

Hon. Mr. Henry, however, waved a document toward the Minister and declared he had the proof.

The speaker demanded to know of Hon. Mr. Biggs if he had ever received a dollar that had been promised by the Dominion Government toward Provincial road building.

"I have done more than the Hearst Government ever did," commenced Hon. Mr. Biggs, when Hon. Mr. Henry cut him short with the statement that he was evading the question. The member for East York put his question again, and when the Minister made no reply Conservatives in the House applauded warmly.

"I find no justification for issuing bonds for twenty years on gravel roads," he proceeded. "The money necessary to their construction should be taken out of the motor license taxes of two millions."

A "CALL-DOWN" FOR MINISTRY

Both Opposition Leaders
Take "Rise" Out of
Prof. Jackman

SPEAKING OUT OF SCHOOL

Strong criticism of the Committee on Rural Credits was indulged in yesterday in the Legislature by Mr. H. H. Dewart, K.C., whose main contentions secured the approval of the Leader of the Conservative group, Hon. G. H. Ferguson. Quoting from a newspaper report of a recent utterance by Prof. Jackman of the University of Toronto, a member of the committee, Mr. Dewart not only challenged the bona fides of the committee, but severely criticized the manner in which one of its members had presumed to speak, publicly, on behalf of the Government.

"This report," Mr. Dewart said, "is signed by a committee not one of whom is a member of this House. It is rather extraordinary that on the very day when this bill was introduced by the Minister of Agriculture Prof. Jackman addressed the farmers attending the short course at the University. They received more light and more information in the matter than was vouchsafed to the members of this House."

Speaking for Government.

The Liberal Leader quoted from the clipping several instances where Prof. Jackman was reported as saying that "we" intended bringing down certain legislation, etc., and asked whether or not Prof. Jackman was authorized to speak on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture or the Government.

"Also, under what authority does this committee purport to sit?" he continued. "The Lieutenant-Governor has no power to appoint a committee comprised of men who are not members of the House. Not only is the appointment of the committee irregular, but also there is irregularity as regards the report of a committee not regularly appointed, and so far as the use of the professor as the mouthpiece of the Government is concerned."

Hon. Mr. Doherty replied that whether this was a commission or a committee was not a matter in which he was particularly interested. Copies of the report had been tabled in the House, by his order, on February 11. "Further," the Minister remarked, "Prof. Jackman has no authority from this Government to speak for this Government."

Serious, Says Ferguson.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson saw in the incident a serious issue, in that, apparently, persons outside the Government and the House itself were able to speak "with facility" upon matters that had not come before the Legislature for formal consideration.

"That is the serious side of this matter," the Conservative Leader stated. "The Government should speak for itself and the House should be treated frankly and fairly in every matter dealing with public business."

Premier Drury took the stand that the intention of the Government manifestly had been to secure the appointment of a Commission on Rural Credits. The actual wording of the order in Council wherein the word "committee" appeared, no doubt resulted purely from a clerical error in one of the departments of the Government. There had been on the part of the Government, he declared, no lack of frankness in connection with this particular report, which now was the property of the House and could be discussed at the pleasure of the members.