

BIGGS HITS OUT AT EX-MINISTER

Scores Henry Over Latter's
Criticism of Farmers'
Road Policy

POLITICS AND PULL DEAD

Defending the Government's roads policy and expenditures in the Ontario Legislature yesterday, Hon. F. C. Biggs declared that the proposed 1,824-mile Provincial system served every county, every town and practically every city in organized Ontario. A system which skirted the shores of the lower lakes and the St. Lawrence, such as the old Government proposed, he said, could not be representative of the people of the Province, all of whom contributed to the expense.

In vigorous tones he stated, in response to criticisms advanced Wednesday night by Hon. George S. Henry, that the Government's roads policy was completely in accord with the party platform. He said the policy was actually word for word in line with the platform, "and as far as my department is concerned," he added, "we do not have any politics, and I defy any member of this House to say there has been any discrimination in subsidies or in designation of Provincial roads or service in any constituency in the Province."

Highways Pay Their Way.

The Minister computed from the number of motor cars and motor trucks in the Province that the actual saving in upkeep costs through improved highways would more than pay for a year's expenditure on road improvement. He based his calculation on a saving of 12½ per cent. in upkeep expenses on all the motor vehicles in the Province. Another economic contention of the Minister's in favor of good roads was that it would bring United States tourists to Ontario playgrounds in such numbers as would pay very quickly for the whole Provincial outlay.

Scores Hon. Mr. Henry.

He denied the accuracy of Hon. Mr. Henry's statement that the department was paying 20 per cent. to municipalities operating under the statutory road system. And if the efficiency of road work had fallen off slightly during the last few years it was a condition common to every industry and project. Nor was the former Minister fair, he said, in telling the House that the department had let for \$1.35 per yard Yonge street contracts on which the old Government had received a tender at 98 cents, because the terms of the contract were not similar, and, in fact, the Government's deal, with stone and gravel found, was cheaper. Other comparisons of Hon. Mr. Henry's he declared to be equally unfair.

Answering Hon. Mr. Henry's contention that the highways system should be administered by a commission, Hon. Mr. Biggs asked if he would recommend the Toronto and York Highways Commission. "If so," he said, "I am mighty sorry for the Province."

RURAL CREDITS UP NEXT WEEK

Members Plead for Time to
Consider Bills Before
Discussion

AGRICULTURAL MEASURES

Protests by the Conservative and Liberal Leaders that they were not prepared to proceed with discussion of a Government notice of motion regarding rural credits were accepted by Premier Drury, and the notice stands over until next week.

"I haven't read the bills concerned, nor even the report on rural credits," Hon. Mr. Ferguson said. "I think the matter should stand over."

Mr. H. H. Dewart, K.C., deemed the notice of motion too important an item to proceed with on such short notice.

The reason behind the appearance yesterday of Government notice of motion was explained by Premier Drury when he said: "I think it desirable that the House should hear the principles of the bill explained by the Minister of Agriculture. It is necessary that the Minister explain the measure before he is forced to leave for Great Britain—not to desert his duty, but in the interests of the Province."

Second reading of Hon. Mr. Doherty's bill respecting Provincial auctioneers was given. The bill provides for the granting of Provincial licenses to auctioneers specially qualified to sell pure-bred live stock only by public auction.

The Minister of Agriculture explained his bill to amend the Dairy Standards Act, the chief provision of which had to do with penalties for falsification of the Babcock test and the inauguration of machinery to insure the proper enforcement of the Dairy Standards Act, which, the Minister intimated, probably would be proclaimed next April. The bill was given second reading.

Second readings were given bills providing for changes of name in the cases of the Western Ontario Poultry Association and the Eastern Ontario Live Stock and Poultry Show, to Ontario Poultry Association and Eastern Ontario Winter Fair, respectively, as well as to a bill dealing with grants to agricultural societies.