

motor trucks, motor markers, machinery, stone, etc., pointing out that to one firm alone in the riding of Mr. Biggs \$117,000 had been paid.

"A Vicious Principle."

Once more he raked over the Minister of Public Works for allowing his name to appear on the directorate of the Beaver Motor Truck Company, declaring it a "vicious principle" that a Minister of the Crown should allow his name to be used for stock-selling purposes. If Hon. Mr. Biggs had pleaded that he had not known of the appearance of his name on the board list he had had plenty of time between July 2 and August 19, when the last advertisement carried his name, to correct the error. Mr. Dewart expressed the conviction that the accounts showed there never had been a Government which had so consistently followed the patronage principle as the present Administration.

"Why is not the Minister of Agriculture in his seat to-day?" Mr. Dewart demanded. "Has he a contract in which he has interested himself in England? Unless he is attending to the business of the Province he ought to come home and look after his business here. He is not wanted in England. His presence is an insult to the British people. His absence from Ontario is an affront to the people of Ontario."

Pedestal for Mr. Raney.

For a brief moment he touched on the proposal of the Attorney-General to amend the Public Inquiries Act "to make the Attorney-General of this Province above the law." There was enough concentration of law at the present time, he said, without placing Hon. Mr. Raney above the law in connection with his bill to prevent the halting of public inquiries by legal process.

Taking the Government's accounts from the year ending October 31 to 1920, Mr. Dewart found that "the Government started the year with nearly \$2,000,000 more cash in hand than it closed the year. It received and had available, in addition, over \$5,000,000 more than was received in the preceding year, yet it closed the year over \$800,000 behind, and still the Provincial Treasurer pretends to be proud of his deficit."

He charged the Government of the day with violating the statutes, which provide that the Provincial debt is not to be increased without express permission of the Legislature. Turning to the Hydro-electric Power Commission Act, he noted that authority was given under that act to borrow such sums as Council may deem requisite, but "only for the purposes of that act," he added. "Nor does the section of the Hydro-electric Act imply that a scapegoat can be made of the Hydro-electric Commission and moneys borrowed for general purposes." He asked the Provincial Treasurer if he would show the people of the Province where moneys that had been raised for Hydro had been actually spent, and where was the balance that should now rest to the credit of the Hydro.

Attacks Bond Flotations.

Taking up the various bond issues of the Government, he contended that moneys had been raised by flotations when there was no necessity for it, and at ruinous prices. Why in the name of goodness, he demanded, did the Provincial Treasurer, when he already had a large balance, "embark on this sixteen million scheme and sell those bonds at the ruinous price of 92.34"? On various occasions when there was little expenditure to provide for, Mr. Dewart declared, the Provincial Treasurer had gone in on a rising market. "What was the reason," he asked, "for this issuing of the additional \$10,000,000 bonds in a rising market when the \$6,000,000 bonds already issued had appreciated several points, and any prudent and provident Treasurer could have saved the Province at least \$300,000 by the most ordinary business ability? Is there any reason except the fact that the Hydro money that should have been available to pay the Hydro liabilities was not available? It could not be available if it had been used for the ordinary Government expenditures to which the Government had no right to divert it."

He criticized severely the selling of bonds without advertisement or tender, without the consent and authority of the House then in session. He discovered a direct loss to the Province of \$200,000 in one of them.

When Mr. Dewart referred to the "fatuous and fat-headed" financial folly of the flotations of the December and February loans, Hon. Peter Smith arose in his seat and demanded to know whether the word "fat-headed" was directed at him personally. "No," replied Mr. Dewart, "to the Government." In comparison with what he termed the Province of Ontario's poor receipts for bond issues, Mr. Dewart contrasted Quebec's issues at 98 and 99. Comparing Ontario's "7 2-3 per cent. one" and Quebec's 1 per cent., the Province of Ontario was out over a million dollars. No wonder, he commented, The Farmers' Sun and other journals called a halt.

He criticized the proposed tax on real estate transfers as an impost on the artisans of the Province. Nor, he thought, had the Government been well advised in imposing further taxes on the gold and silver mining industries of Ontario, many of whom were barely able to carry on.

Flowers for Mr. Dewart.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson paid a tribute to the address of the previous speaker, Mr. Hartley H. Dewart, stating that seldom, in 17 years' experience in the Legislature, had he been privileged to hear "an abler address delivered in better form."

The Conservative Leader stated that Ontario was staggered by the appalling conditions in which they were finding their financial affairs. Promised economy had not come into effect, and in one year the public expenditures of the Province had almost doubled.

"There has been placed as a levy on the head of every man, woman and child in the Province, a chattel mortgage of \$15, to be met by future generations," declared Hon. Mr. Ferguson, who charged that in arriving at his deficit the Provincial Treasurer had used some peculiar methods of bookkeeping. In this connection he referred to the disposal of the proceeds from the sale of the Ontario Government Hospital at Orpington, England, when \$400,000 had been placed to the credit of ordinary revenue rather than to capital receipts.

The borrowing achievements of the present Government, the member for Grenville stated, had more than equalled those of any two years in past history.

"How long are we to go on in this way?" he asked. "If the present occupants of the Treasury benches are there for long this Province will be sinking into insolvency."

Borrowing has been done, Hon. Mr. Ferguson claimed, at the very time when conditions of the money markets were at their worst. Under those conditions, he asked, why had not the Provincial Treasurer arranged for the flotation of short-date loans? Bonds that had been disposed of at heavy discount, he claimed, very shortly afterward were selling at par on the Toronto market. Financial men had advised him that, because of the manner in which recent loans had been negotiated, the Province stood to lose the sum of \$17 on each \$100 that was borrowed.

The Spendthrift Government.

"The Provincial Treasurer will be known through all time as the Treasurer of the Spendthrift Government. I sympathize with him; his good nature has allowed him to be imposed upon. He is surrounded by an aggregation of thoughtless spendthrifts, and I am not surprised that he is forced to apologize for the whole Cabinet and the whole Government, and say: 'I have done the best I can with this bunch of pirates around me. Don't tell the people, and I'll try to improve conditions next year.'"

"Now, let us look at our little friend, the Attorney-General, who looks up with a smile like a spring robin," the Conservative Leader continued, turning toward Hon. W. E. Raney. "He is responsible to a large extent for the present condition of affairs."

Attorney-General—Hear, hear!
Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Yes, and the