

## Acting Liberal Leader Would End Public Misgivings About Chippawa

### RAPS THE FARMERS' SUN

## Urges Grain Storage Scheme to Tide Farmers Over Slack Market

Investigation of Chippawa development expenditures by a committee of the Ontario Legislature was suggested on the floor of the House yesterday by F. Wellington Hay, in his first address as Acting Leader of the Liberal party. Mr. Hay said that the purpose of such investigation would be to settle in the minds of the public the misgivings that had arisen as a result of the controversy between the Government and the Hydro-electric Power Commission of Ontario.

The Liberal Leader's speech lasted throughout the whole afternoon, occupying practically three hours. He became jocular at times in prodding the Government and the Premier for apparent inconsistencies in public policy and practice, and delved at great length into Hydro and Hydro-radial matters. He declared that the Government could not be held entirely blameless for the expenditure of millions on Hydro development, and on the latter issue, Hydro-radials, urged that if the municipalities wanted Hydro-radials the Government should pave the way by legislation which would permit them to build and operate on their own responsibility.

### Favors Farmers' Banks.

Mr. Hay placed one concrete suggestion before the Government which was generously applauded, and that was a system of farmers' banks, to be organized, controlled and administered locally. He also declared the need for immediate reduction in freight and express rates to assist agriculture. On behalf of the Liberals, he promised co-operation in any measures that would better the condition of the agricultural population, which, he agreed, was capable of some improvement, and in that some connection declared that in 24 months of power the Drury Government had so far failed of its purpose.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, will take up the debate this afternoon.

### Drury Fails to Help Farmers.

The Liberal Leader opened with an exhaustive analysis of agricultural conditions in Ontario. He agreed in the main with the conditions placed before the House on the previous day by R. M. Warren, U.F.O. member for North Renfrew, as to falling prices of farm products, with no corresponding decrease in those things which the farmer must purchase.

Speaking as a business man, and for business men generally, he said,

it was the hope and desire of the people of the Province at large that the present Farmers' Government should do something that would assist in bringing about better conditions, so far as the farming community was concerned.

"I take issue, of course," he added, "with the method of obtaining what you thought you wanted. After twenty-four months of opportunity no measure of legislation has been brought before this House that would be a suggestion to better the financial position, so far as the farmers of the Province of Ontario are concerned."

### Urges Public Grain Storage.

As a concrete suggestion for helping the farmers, Mr. Hay proposed public grain storage facilities. "I cannot help but think," he said, "that if we could provide in the Province of Ontario a public storage plant, wherewith the farmer would have the opportunity of tiding over his marketable grain until such time as he was ready to dispose of it, it would help in a way to at least relieve the early pressure on the fall market."

Hearty applause greeted his next suggestion of legislation to assist agriculture. "I believe very strongly," he said, "that as the first step we must see that a very substantial reduction is made in the freight and express rates on the common carriers of the Dominion of Canada."

### Wants Banks Locally Managed.

"Then I am very strongly of the opinion that we ought by some measure or means establish in the Province of Ontario and the Dominion of Canada a system of farmers' banks." He did not mean organizations with tremendous capital, controlled by boards, he said, "but banks which are easily organized, with a reasonably small capital, and locally managed, so that the men who are interested may be interested in the granting of local credits to local industry, and foster local industry, that local money should not be sent in large amounts from our country places to the big centres to be loaned in tremendous blocks to big concerns."

### The Farmers' Sun and the Premier.

Mr. Hay convulsed the House with some jocular references to The Farmers' Sun and the certificate of character it had once given to Premier Drury; to the United Farmers' commercial organization; and to Secretary J. J. Morrison.

He did not believe that The Sun would now give the Premier a certificate to character. He, himself, was not the millionaire that The Sun had represented him to be, he said, and never expected to be, because all his business was conducted with the farmers, whose total income tax payments, he said, would not equal the income tax payment he would have to make if he were actually a millionaire.

A veiled shaft at Mr. Morrison was greeted with laughter. Mr. Hay, referring to the U.F.O. Secretary's complaints of increased taxation, said that, inasmuch as taxes were levied for the most part on the basis of farm property improvements, Mr. Morrison, had he been engaged in farming for the past 20 years, would not have had much increase in the way of taxation to pay.

### Mutual Protection Lacking.

No townsmen or city people, he thought, took any comfort out of the financial situation of the United Farmers' commercial organization. But he regretted that when the shares were being sold to farmers by the vendor, who took so few himself, the Attorney-General's promised "blue sky" legislation had not been in existence as a sort of protection.

"But I believe I speak for the members of the House," he said, "when I say that if there is any legislation the farmers in the House want that will be beneficial to them we are prepared to give them every assistance with it."

The people of Ontario, the Liberal Leader continued, demanded the utmost economy from the present Government. They would insist, however, upon every care and consideration being shown to the incapacitated soldiers and the dependents of those who had fallen in France and Flanders.

### Promise Versus Performance.

The Liberal Leader made some humorous references to Premier Drury's weakness for speech, and went on to quote some of his older utterances and contrast them with his present practices. For instance, two years ago the Premier had eloquently announced that "caucus Government" would be a thing of the past, because the U.F.O. members were not the servile followers that Liberals and Conservatives had been.