

PREMIER DRURY DENIES GOVERNMENT EMPLOYS HAWKES, ELSON & CO.

M. M. MacBride, Brantford Member, Draws Fire of Queen's Park Chief When He Demands End of Anti-Hydro Propaganda

BRANTFORD PROBE ALSO DISCUSSED

"Stop this propaganda against Hydro!" thundered M. M. MacBride, Independent Labor member for Brantford, across the floor of the Legislature at the Drury Government yesterday, in the midst of a vigorous arraignment of the Premier for his attitude toward Hydro.

Bringing forward the names of Messrs. Elson and Hawkes, anti-Hydro-radial witnesses before the Sutherland Commission, Mr. MacBride declared that public accounts would bear out the fact that they were paid by the Government. While the member for Brantford assumed that they represented the interests whom Sir Adam Beck had so long been fighting, he voiced a demand to know of the Government just who it was they had really represented.

Premier on Defensive.

After Premier Drury had interrupted with a denial that there had been, or ever would be, Government propaganda against Hydro, and that the Government was not responsible for Arthur Hawkes and J. M. Elson, Mr. MacBride went on to interpret, as he saw it, the Government's Hydro policy—of attacking here, criticizing there, and investigating some place else, until, perhaps, it could get the people of the Province to believe something.

F. G. Sandy, U.F.O. member for South Victoria, will resume the debate Monday.

Over 8,000 Orders-in-Council.

Replying to a question of a member earlier in the day, Premier Drury had said that, since the time his Government came into office, up to and including January 31 last, a total of 8,297 Orders-in-Council had been passed. Upon this admission the member for Brantford hung a text for the first part of his speech, holding that the protests of the Farmers against Orders-in-Council had been merely hypocrisy.

He then turned his attention to the "spotter," and scornfully referred to what he termed an attempt by the Attorney-General to elevate this kind of person to a superior plane under the title of special operatives. He objected to the employment of a type of man who, he said, enticed boys of 13, and sometimes younger, to take a drink and who then laid an information against them for drinking.

A Supporter of P. R.

After urging that the Southeast Toronto riding should be opened immediately Mr. MacBride went on to commend proportional representation. He would welcome an experiment of grouping the counties of Brant, Norfolk, Oxford and Waterloo for election purposes under this scheme and let the issue be the stand the Labor members supporting the Government had taken, as compared with the stand Mr. MacBride had taken. The effect would be to enlarge the Independent group in the House by 500 per cent., he said.

"Is that the only way the honorable member thinks he will get in?" inquired Mr. Drury suavely.

Premier Gets Retraction.

Mr. MacBride retorted warmly that he had won five elections and that the Premier, in his own county of Simcoe, had been turned down three times. The Premier said this was untrue and asked for a retraction, and after some cross-fire Mr. MacBride said he would be glad to withdraw any remark he had made that was not true. "If any member of the Government wants to come down and try his fortunes in Brantford I will resign and we'll see who comes back," he declared.

The three Independent members in the House, himself, Mr. McNamara and Mr. Halcrow, represented 109,000 people, said Mr. MacBride. He challenged the Government to put together any 15 members that represented so large a number of persons.

Mr. MacBride then rather unexpectedly gave his meed of praise to J. J. Morrison because he stood to his principles through thick and thin. Following that he criticized the Government for not making any reference to the Washington Conference in the Speech from the Throne. He also criticized the Government for not welcoming officially Admiral Earl Beatty when he was here. That, he thought, was the fault of the Attorney-General, quoting a speech of Mr. Raney, made recently, when the latter had said that Canadians did not wish to interfere in Great Britain's foreign affairs and that Canada had enough problems of her own. Important legislation was not ready for the House, said Mr. MacBride, but within a few days from the start of the session Mr. Raney brought in his little "pet bill to abolish appeals to the Privy Council."

Says Rollo Escaped to Geneva.

The Government was then criticized by the member for Brantford for not helping the farmers, and he said the Premier had not had the courage to say openly to implement manufacturers that their prices were too high, as he himself had done in Brantford. Mr. Drury retorted that he was aware the prices were too high and that he knew of the system that permitted it. This led Mr. MacBride into a discussion on fiscal policies, in which he upheld protection, and said that the Minister of Labor, Mr. Rollo, had conveniently gone to Geneva last fall in order to miss the issue that was raised in the Dominion elections. He then twitted the Labor Minister on his interview in *The Globe* in which Mr. Rollo said that he stood with the Government. Mr. Rollo wanted the member to read this, and in the exchange of questions said quite positively that he supported the Government on the Hydro and radial policies.

Mr. MacBride then accused the Government of granting in November last a charter to a company to build light railways in Northern Ontario. "What is the history of charters being granted in this Province to private individuals?" he asked. "They are sold to larger corporations. I predict in a short time an attempt of the C.P.R. to acquire some of these charters, whereby much of the freight of the North country will be carried on that road instead of on Government roads."

Draws Premier's Fire.

"Whether this Government or the municipalities control, it may be a debatable point," said Mr. MacBride, referring to Hydro, "but the fact that the people of the Province own and control it in any event is not debatable."

Referring to the Chippawa development, the member for Brantford went on to say that it was a war necessity, in that additional power was being demanded for munition manufacture. Of course, said Mr. MacBride, under war conditions, with soaring prices, the cost had exceeded the estimate, but his surprise was not that there had been an excess, but that the excess over the estimate had not been larger.