

South Victoria Member Suggests Hydro Engineers Might Be Replaced — Mr. Crockett Tells of Alleged Irregularities in Wentworth During the Dominion Elections

DRURY'S POLICIES ARE ALL DEFENDED

Two Government supporters, F. G. Sandy, member for South Victoria, and W. A. Crockett, member for South Wentworth, held forth in the debate on the Address on the floor of the Legislature yesterday, and both vigorously endorsed the policy and eulogized the record of the Drury Government with regard to all questions, including Hydro.

Mr. Sandy's most enthusiastic approbation was reserved for the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Manning Doherty, whose legislative enactments along the lines of farm loans, Government assistance toward fruit packing and fruit growing, and his endeavors to have the cattle embargo removed, were particularly appreciated, he said, by Ontario farmers. The Minister had labored hard over the cattle embargo question, and, Mr. Sandy believed, those efforts would meet with success.

Dr. Forbes Godfrey—I think I am entitled to some credit, too. I went over to London for four days also, had just as good a time as the Minister, and accomplished just as much as he did.

Thanks to All Who Help.

Mr. Sandy replied that for anything the member for West York had done or sought to do in their interests the farmers of the Province were duly grateful.

The member for South Victoria, however, was not entirely in accord with the proposal to appoint a Committee of the House to go into the Chippawa matters. He could not see that much benefit would result. "What I would say is this," he declared, "that, if we had engineers who were so far out in their estimates as the engineers have been in the matter of the Chippawa, I think they should be replaced."

Another suggestion Mr. Sandy had to make in regard to Hydro was that a Ministry of Power be established in the Province, if not immediately, in the near future, or whenever the time was opportune.

On Hydro-radials Mr. Sandy endorsed the policy of the Government, declaring that the Bowmanville line, the only one with which he was closely acquainted, did not look like a reasonable proposition to him; the Sutherland Commission had reported against radials, and he could see no reason why the commissioners should be bigoted in their judgment; and, thirdly, Ontario's improved highways would obviate a great deal of the demand for radials.

Says Government Merits Support.

W. A. Crockett, U.F.O.-Labor member for South Wentworth, directed some sarcasm at the three Labor Independents sitting in the Opposition benches, all of whom have criticized the Drury Government this session. From the laboring man's point of view, Mr. Crockett declared, the Drury Government's record amply justified the continued support of Labor in Ontario.

The member for South Wentworth went on to tell of irregularities in the ballot count in Wentworth riding in the recent Federal election which had come to his attention. While he would not care to charge the Conservatives with anything "criminal" in their efforts to be returned to power, still, if conditions were the same in all ridings, he wondered how so many Progressives had been returned to Ottawa as had been.

Contrary to the election laws, he said, ballot boxes were taken away before the time allotted for recount possibilities; ballots that were sent east in nine packages, and were not supposed to be opened, were returned in eight; ballots from some centres were found among those parcelled for others; there were no poll books in some booths, and in the advance polls the books were blank; and packages were found to have been broken in the mail bags, as a result of which the loose ballots had to be picked out of the bottom of the bags.

Scores Hydro Engineers.

He declared himself as willing to support the Premier on his Hydro policy. Without differentiating at all between the original 100,000 horsepower Chippawa project and the present 600,000 horsepower development, Mr. Crockett assumed that any engineers whose estimates jumped from \$10,000,000 to \$68,000,000 must be incompetent, and their estimates on Hydro-radial projects totally unreliable.

"If a man, or a body of men," he said, "makes an estimate of \$10,000,000, and the cost is increased to \$68,000,000, the jump is a little too big. The result is you lose confidence in their ability to carry on the scheme. And that is the reason we think it is pretty nearly time that a halt was called, and the majority of people in this Province are giving credit to the Prime Minister for the stand he has taken in connection with the scheme."

"I believe in Hydro-radials to a certain extent," Mr. Crockett went on, "because I realize that if these Hydro-radials radiate from the big industrial centres, and if they are constructed on proper lines, and economically, they are going to be of material benefit, not only to the people living in the industrial centres, but also to the people in the suburbs and outlying districts. But I don't think it is right that big ventures of that kind should be placed in the hands of those who have shown that they cannot carry on the other scheme as economically as they should."

Mr. Crockett declared he had been informed that material had been purchased by the Hydro authorities at twice its proper value. He had been given to understand, also, that bridges built by the Hydro could have been built by the Department of Highways today for about one-half the cost.

Hon. G. S. Henry moved the adjournment of the debate.

Ontario Legislature Unanimously Passes Hon. Mr. Doherty's Resolution Calling on Ottawa to Make Substantial Reductions at Once

DEFICITS BETTER THAN STAGNATION

The Ontario Legislature yesterday passed unanimously the resolution of Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, calling for a reduction in freight rates.

Mr. Doherty, in speaking to his resolution, quoted figures to show how high freight rates were strangling the live stock and agricultural industry in the Province. Wellington Hay, Acting Liberal Leader, in supporting the measure, said that he thought the Minister should not single out any one industry, but that all industries were suffering because of the high rates.

The debate was notable in that the first speech since he was elected was made by W. F. Nickle, K.C., of Kingston. Mr. Nickle spoke for about ten minutes, and argued that the matter should be approached as a question of economics and not in a partisan spirit.