

# HONESTY OF PARTNERS OF HON. D. CARMICHAEL QUERIED BY CROCKETT

**Labor Member Also Suggests Legislature Will Soon Deal With Sir Adam Beck's Resignation—Ministers Say His Statement Is "Not Significant"**

## MEMBERS CONTINUE DEBATE ON BUDGET

Provincial finances were discussed by four members of the Legislature at afternoon and night sessions of the Ontario Legislature yesterday, then, at 10.30, the House went into committee to fill out the working day until 11 o'clock.

Outstanding in yesterday's more or less prosaic contributions to the debate was the demand of Charles McCrea, Conservative member for Sudbury, of the lifting of war-time impositions on the nickel industry of the North Country, which, Mr. McCrea said, was in an almost dormant condition at the present time. Before Ontario nickel could regain its status among the items of potential Provincial wealth, the Sudbury member said, new usages adapted to peace conditions must be found for it.

### Says Tactics Are Same.

For the Government J. M. Webster followed with a defense of Provincial Treasurer Smith's bookkeeping methods and his surplus, and declared the attacks thereon were simply a reiteration of the annual Opposition criticisms.

W. A. Crockett, Labor member for South Wentworth, aroused a small storm, when, in defending the Government and Hon. D. Carmichael from criticism in regard to Chippawa expenditures, he intimated that the Minister, an honest man, was associated with others of a "different calibre." Although M. M. MacBride demanded a retraction, the Speaker ruled he saw nothing in the statement that warranted a withdrawal, and Mr. Crockett escaped without really specifying just what he meant by the statement.

Another interesting item in Mr. Crockett's deliverance was a statement that the Government would no doubt soon deal with the question of Sir Adam Beck's resignation. Premier Drury and Hon. D.

Carmichael both stated afterward that the statement had no significance, so far as the Government was concerned, and could not be regarded as an official intimation of pending action.

### Gives Warning on Loans.

Mr. McCrea, resuming the debate late in the afternoon, criticized the Government banking and rural credits system, and thought that the Province should take great care. The amount of arrears was large in Manitoba, he said, and the experience of Saskatchewan showed that it was not a success there. In the last analysis, he said, the scheme was one to lend moneys to associations or concerns where the liability to repay was limited, while the liability of the Province was unlimited.

Discussing the assets and liabilities of the Province, Mr. McCrea said the liabilities at present were 204 millions, and if the Province kept on piling them up, as in the case of last year, where 76 millions had been added, in five years there would be liabilities of 584 millions,

and there would be wiped out the entire estimated assets and resources as shown by the Government.

He would make some suggestions to the Government, he said. Extraordinary expenditures should be transferred from capital to ordinary account. Money should not be paid out, except where absolutely necessary, and the Government should see what was spent was well spent. They should not evade responsibility by appointing commissions, and the Province should be the first to exemplify retrenchment, saving and thrift.

Then Mr. McCrea got upon his favorite subject of the North country, and told the House of the unfathomed resources of New Ontario. The paternal attitude, in an address to North countrymen at Government House, had been resented in many quarters, he said. "I am not one of those who want to see secession brought about," he said, vigorously, and asserted that nearly all the assets set forth in the Government statement were in New Ontario.

Continuing, Mr. McCrea said he hoped that the Government would take a deeper and a bigger interest in the North country, the potentialities of which in mineral wealth were greater than any other section of the world.

"We must not consider too lightly this business of jacking up taxation," he declared in passing to specific mention of the mining future of the North country.

### Can Boost Gold Output.

Instability in the matter of taxation, he declared, had a very deterrent effect upon capital. He said in this connection that, with wise handling, Ontario's gold mining industry should increase by leaps and bounds under present favorable circumstances.

Concluding, Mr. McCrea expressed the conviction that the people were everywhere concerned at the increasing expenditures of the Province. If there was any doubt as to the concern of the people on the matter of finances, he pointed out, there was always that last tribunal, the people, to whom resort could be made for expression of opinion.

J. M. Webster, U.F.O. member for West Lambton, defended the Budget presentation and the surplus of the Provincial Treasurer from the criti-

cisms of previous speakers by declaring that the attacks upon it were exactly similar to those which had been advanced against every Budget for years past. In his opinion the Provincial Treasurer had been more than fair in his bookkeeping, and he pointed out, amid U.F.O. applause, that the item of a million and a half in capital and extraordinary receipts from the Department of Lands and Forests had never before been so treated.

He defended the increased expenditures on education by saying that to a great extent they were accounted for in larger salaries being paid teachers in rural districts, more adequate compensation being made possible by the increased school grants. He rather indignantly refuted a suggestion of the Liberal Leader that the increased salaries were forced out of the school boards by the teachers' organization.

"It has been said," he declared, "that the farmers of Ontario are 'tight-wads.' I want to say that it is not the case where I come from."

Mr. Lennox—It is not the case here. (Laughter.)

Mr. Webster took no stock in the "blue ruin" shouts of financiers in discussing rural credits. He quoted the Provincial Treasurer of Manitoba to the effect that the Prairie Province had not lost a dollar in connection with its advances to rural sections, and did not expect to do so.