

### Old Parties Failures.

W. A. Crockett, Labor member for South Wentworth, declared that there must have been reason for the uprising which swept the U.F.O. Labor Government into power in 1919, and in his opinion the present condition of the Legislature amply indicated the reason. So far as the two parties were concerned there was not the least doubt, he said, but that they had proved themselves utter failures in carrying out the wishes and the will of the people.

Mr. Crockett ran into heavy going when, in dealing with Chippawa matters, he absolved the Government from responsibility in connection with expenditures, and intimated that Hon. D. Carmichael, who was honest and straightforward, had had to accept the representations of other members "of a different calibre."

Dr. Forbes Godfrey and M. M. MacBride (South Brant) demanded to know what Mr. Crockett meant, and Mr. MacBride finally pressed for a withdrawal. To Mr. Godfrey Mr. Crockett explained his statement: "I do not think that, so far as our representative was concerned, he was fully informed as to what was taking place. I do not see why we, as a party, should be blamed because we have taken in confidence what has been told us."

Mr. MacBride — The honorable member, as I understood him, said that the Minister was particularly honest, and that he was associated with others who were not of the same calibre. Sir Adam Beck is not here to defend himself, and as one public man defending another, I ask that he withdraw.

The Speaker finally ruled that there was no implication of dishonesty on the part of anybody in Mr. Crockett's remarks. The matter dropped after one further interesting passage, when, in reply to Dr. Godfrey's question as to whether the Government had not the right to demand Sir Adam Beck's resignation, Mr. Crockett said: "There is no doubt that some action will be taken, possibly in the near future."

Z. Mageau, Liberal member for Sturgeon Falls, who spoke briefly before moving the adjournment of the debate, declared that, so far as he personally was concerned, he had received fair and generous treatment from the Government of the day. He contrasted its non-partisan attitude toward North Country necessities with that of the Conservative party when in power.

### Casselman's Hydro Bonus- ing Bill Starts Hottest Discussion of Session — Premier Says Govern- ment Not Ready to Put Idea in Force

### TWO "HON. MEMBERS" HAVE TO RETRACT

During one of the warmest discussions of the year—in which one of his followers disagreed with Premier Drury as to the interpretation to be put upon a conversation he held with the Premier, and in which, at different times, two members had to withdraw remarks after a ruling from the Speaker—the Premier said that the Government, while sympathetic toward the idea, did not yet see its way to give aid by bonuses to municipalities taking power from private companies engaging in the rural distribution of electric power.

The whole discussion arose upon the bill of W. H. Casselman, U.F.O. member for Dundas, to amend the act providing for the rural distribution of electric power, in that Government aid should be made available for other concerns than the Hydro Commission.

### Explains His Bill.

The question previously had arisen as to whether this bill was properly one that could be introduced by a private member, and, in the expectation that it would be declared out of order by the Speaker, Mr. Casselman made a statement to the Legislature on the purpose of the bill.

He said in his statement he understood, from conversations with the Premier, that the Government was sympathetic toward the proposal, and he wanted to know if the Government intended introducing this session a bill of this character.

Premier Drury admitted that he was sympathetic toward the object of the bill, but such a proposal needed a good deal of consideration. It was unfair, he said, to extend Government aid that might possibly accrue to the benefit of private power companies.

Later M. M. MacBride (South Brant) said he understood from the remarks of Mr. Casselman that the Premier had promised Mr. Casselman to implement by legislation the principle contained in Mr. Casselman's proposed bill. The Premier

replied that when the difficulties he had spoken of were removed he would be prepared to help.

### Was Support Promised?

"I think on two occasions the Premier told me that he would get behind me on a bill of this character," said Mr. Casselman.

"I have not pledged the Government to get behind this bill in its present form," said the Premier.

With one of his own followers criticizing the Premier, the opportunity was not lost by the Opposition, and Hon. G. Howard Ferguson had several clashes with Mr. Drury of the most spirited character. But the tense moment of the day came when A. C. Lewis (North-east Toronto) was speaking. He approved the extending of the Government bonus to the secondary lines of construction as well as the primary lines, and said he understood that a proposal to this effect came to the Government from the Hydro-electric Commission and the Government refused to ratify it.

"The proposal has not been made to the Government at all," said Col. D. Carmichael.

Mr. Lewis said it might not have been made officially, but he had been told that the proposal had been suggested to the Premier by the Chairman of the Hydro-electric Power Commission, and it was refused consideration.

### Asks for Retraction.

"I wish to correct the honorable gentleman. His confidence is sadly misplaced," said Mr. Drury. The Premier asked for a retraction, and Mr. Lewis said he would have to accept the denial under parliamentary rules.

The Premier asked a retraction of the words "have got to," as applied to Mr. Lewis' acceptance of the denial.

"Does the honorable member accept the Premier's statement?" asked the Speaker. "Yes. I said so," replied Mr. Lewis.

The Premier still objected. Mr. Lewis had accepted the denial, he said, under the rules of the House. "Under the rules of the House I accept the denial," said Mr. Lewis.

The Speaker said that was not satisfactory to him. He asked for an unqualified acceptance of the denial.

"As a member of the House, I do," said Mr. Lewis, and the incident was ended.

Just before the debate closed, H. H. Dewart moved that the bill of Mr. Casselman be printed, and that the rules of the House be suspended to permit of this being done. Speaking to his motion, Mr. Dewart said they had learned from the discussion one thing—that the Premier's promises, like pie crusts, were made to be broken.

### Dislikes "Pie-crust" Idea.

Immediately Mr. Drury demanded a retraction. The Speaker said he had made no ruling on Mr. Casselman's bill as yet, and hence Mr. Dewart said he would withdraw his motion. The Premier demanded that he withdraw his "pie-crust" statement.

"Honorable members should quit flinging these things at the House," said the Speaker.