

### Commission Reports Assets.

All assets, said the Premier, were not tangible things. The \$275,000 spent for reports and investigations of proposed capital expenditure, he maintained, was properly charged to capital account, and not to current account. The two millions of dollars odd listed as miscellaneous, he said, was the amount that had been most debated in the House.

Taking up at this point the ordinary expenditures, the Premier said they amounted to \$28,579,687.98. Interest on debt totalled \$6,933,261.01. So long as they were putting money into Hydro-electric and other development enterprises they must pay interest. These payments did not represent an increase of debt. After deducting these interest expenditures, the controllable expenditure was left at \$21,646,426.97. In 1920 the controllable expenditure, after taking off the amount for interest, was \$21,265,800. In other words, the net increase of expenditure for 1921, as compared with 1920, amounted to \$380,625.67.

### Is Really a Saving.

The Premier compared expenditures with other years. In 1919 the controllable expenditure, that is, expenditure from which the payment of interest due had been deducted, amounted to \$18,079,273.14. The controllable expenditure for 1921, as compared with 1919, was higher by \$3,567,156. But increased grants to education, comparing 1921 with 1919, totalled \$2,216,000; for public institutions, \$1,069,000; for charities and hospitals grants, \$93,000. On those three items alone, against any of which had been directed no criticism, the increases had been \$3,779,000. Aside from those three the Government had economized over the administration of the former Government by more than \$200,000.

### Stand Firm for O.T.A.

At the beginning of his speech Mr. Drury declared emphatically that his Government stood to enforce the Ontario Temperance Act, as it came from the people, and to give it reasonable and effective administration. He referred to the charge made against the Government, that it owed its position to the support of liquor interests, and that it had done certain things in return for that support.

"I wish now, once and for all, to give a denial to that statement," he said. The Government, he declared, did not owe anything to the support of the liquor interests. "Members sitting behind me were elected by people in favor of that act, and they are in favor of it today."

He then went into a long review of the efforts of the Minister of Agriculture on the matter of removing the cattle embargo, and maintained that Mr. Doherty deserved credit for going about the problem in a way that brought results. He believed that the embargo would be removed, saying that it was being left to a vote of the British House of Commons.

### Accounts Carried Over.

He admitted that accounts had been carried over the end of the year. If the books had been closed on October 31, the Government would have found bills receivable amounting to \$3,258,000. At the same time, there had been carried over into the other fiscal year payments that properly belonged to last year amounting to \$889,000. While some accounts had been paid after the fiscal year was closed, as cited by Mr. Ferguson, at the same time payments for the fiscal year went on. The amount paid, including capital, belonging to the previous fiscal year was \$1,009,000, of which about \$889,000 was for current expenditures.

Mr. Drury contended that when Ontario was started as a Province in the Dominion, under the B. N. A. Act, it was given only one pocket—the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The B. N. A. Act provided that, and so did the Provincial Loans Act, said the Premier. There was no other place to put the money.

### Not "Misappropriation."

Mr. Dewart asked if the Provincial Loan Act interfered with the law that there must be legislative authority for every loan. Did not the Government realize that the Hydro-electric Act constituted a new fund for Hydro-electric purposes, and that the Government, in diverting four millions to highways, was taking money meant for Hydro power under the statute? The Premier replied that the money was used in the interval for other purposes. He claimed to do that was not illegal. They had received legal advice to that effect.

If they borrowed for Hydro-electric purposes they were not bound immediately to turn all the money over for Hydro purposes. They had a right to use it for other purposes, and it was good business not to leave it idle. If Chippawa wanted 15 millions, a million a week, they would not store up that 15 millions for that time, but when money was needed it would be available. The Government would always be ready for the Hydro when Hydro called. Hydro always got the money when it wanted it. They should not have two borrowing accounts—one for Hydro and one for other purposes.

F. Wellington Hay, Leader of the Liberal party, opened his address on the Budget by repudiating an inference which, he said, was sometimes thrown out, that the extended debates and the amount of time taken in legislative discussions were primarily the result of time-wasting efforts on the part of some Opposition members. The House must remember, he said, that, whether wisely or not, there were now four groups in the Legislature, each of which naturally desired to express its views. Further, he thought, increasing evidences of independence among private members had some bearing on the matter.

He commented, in passing, upon the degree of accuracy with which the Conservative Leader, Hon. G. H. Ferguson, was kept posted upon matters relating to Provincial affairs, and he declared in that connection that it was time it was known "whether the civil servants are still of the opinion that they are working for party politicians, or for the Province as a whole." Their best efforts, he said, should not be given to the party which appointed them, but rather to the people of the Province.

### Stand Firm for Radials.

The Liberals, he said, in connection with Hydro-radials, stood firmly as a party upon their resolution passed in 1919, and reaffirmed in 1921. "We stand for Hydro-radials," he said, "and I may say that the time will come, I hope in my day, when we will have in this Province all the suburban lines, all the local lines of railway, electrified, rather than run as steam roads. I do not know whether we should go so far as to say these lines should be owned and operated by the Province, but they will be owned and operated as national railways, so far as the people of Canada are concerned."

After stating the belief of the Liberal party that the present Government was strictly accountable for Hydro expenditures since coming into office, and should have submitted detailed information to the House, in accordance with the continued urging of H. H. Dewart, the then Liberal Leader, he said:

### Did Not Need Commission.

"We did not need a commission to spend \$300,000 or \$400,000 to find out whether Hydro-radials were feasible or not feasible. We believe in public ownership, and, when it is proper to acquire certain utilities, the Government ought to assume full responsibility for the operation of these utilities."

Whether the Government claimed to have saved the Province \$100,000,000 or \$200,000,000 by the activities of the Radial Commission, he said, was immaterial, because the truth was the Government had not saved the Province one cent by such method. What it had done was to spend well on over half a million of the people's money for a report on the feasibility of the lines. The people now had time to reflect upon the Hydro-radial issue and consider the changed conditions.