

DRURY GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION PLAN ROUSES LABOR MEN

Cite Unemployment, Which,
Minister Argues, Is Show-
ing Improvement

BRITAIN FINANCES IDEA

Four thousand five hundred persons are registered with the Unemployment Bureau in Toronto, as compared with 14,000 this time last year, Hon. W. R. Rollo, Minister of Labor and Health, told the Legislature yesterday during a discussion of immigration policies of the Government and their relation to those out of work. Of these 4,500, the Minister related, a total of 1,500 were handicap cases, suffering from war or industrial disabilities.

Must Give Doles, He Says.

When Joseph E. Thompson, Conservative, Northeast Toronto, put in a word for clerks, bookkeepers and other engaged in clerical work who were unemployed, the Minister said that always his sympathy had been with that class of man. It was impossible for any Government to supply jobs for all in that class, and the Minister said that his argument was that if he could not be given a job, then he should be given a dole. "You can't abolish doles until you abolish unemployment. No Government is able to give employment to all that kind of men until the time comes when the Government will control all the jobs."

The discussion arose before the orders of the day were called, when M. M. MacBride, Independent Labor, South Brant, asked if reported plans of the Government contained in the newspapers were correct, relating to the bringing out to Ontario from Britain of certain classes of farm laborers and also boys. Premier Drury said the details of the scheme should be left to the Minister of Agriculture to explain, but he was at that time not in his seat. However, the outline in the Press, the Premier said, was, he thought, approximately correct as to the plan proposed.

Mr. MacBride then launched into a bitter criticism of the Government for spending money on this kind of immigration, when, he said, it had turned down last session a proposal to spend money in order to place Ontario unemployed on farms. He quoted from official figures supplied by the Minister of Labor to show that there were 71,000 unemployed in Ontario, but explained later, in answer to questions, that he was quoting from the 1921 report.

R. M. Warren, U.F.O., North Renfrew, said that only a few days before he had been told by the Government unemployment representative in his part of the country that there was difficulty in getting help for lumber camps. This roused vigorous criticism from G. G. Halcrow, Independent Labor, East Hamilton, who maintained it was up to the Government to face the situation and find some solution for the unemployment question.

Premier Drury explained further that the scheme entered into was largely financed by Britain and that Ontario's share of expenditure would be negligible. There was no thought of placing these immigrants in a more favorable position than their own unemployed. The only thing they were planning to do was to give them training in Canadian farming methods. At no time during the past year had the demand for farm help been satisfied.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Conservative Leader, said he would like to know what the Government had done on the unemployment problem other than to give out doles. Meanwhile the Minister of Labor, after a verbal battle with Mr. MacBride, said that the unemployment situation today was greatly improved over what it had been a year

ago. Answering questions from Mr. Ferguson, the Minister said that this week a lumber company asked for 500 men for the lumber camps, and out of 500 interviewed on Wednesday of this week only 20 offered to go. The farmers, he said, were not able to get help. Regarding handicap cases in Toronto, Mr. Rollo said they had scouts trying to induce manufacturers to take on such men for work they could do.

WANTS REPORT SOON ON CHIPPAWA PROBE, DECLARES FERGUSON

Premier Drury "Hopes" for
Gregory Commission Re-
port This Session

AVOIDING UNDUE HASTE

Premier Drury "hopes" that the Hydro report of the Gregory Commission will be available for the Legislature this session, but in the House yesterday he said he considered its work of extreme importance and that Chairman Gregory and his colleagues were not to be unduly hurried in making their presentation.

Discussion upon the subject of the Gregory Commission was precipitated by Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, who read to the House The Globe's news item of yesterday morning as to the possibility of there being no report brought down this session. In vigorous terms the Conservative Leader went out after the Government for some pronouncement upon the subject, pointing out that, although the Premier had promised a report in three weeks, the Gregory Commission had "meandered on its tortuous way for 10 or 11 months," and had gone everywhere except to Niagara, where it was supposed to go.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson said that apparently some of the Press felt just as the public of the Province did about the Gregory Commission—"that the efforts of this commission have been a direct attack on the principle of public ownership; that it has done its utmost to undermine the confidence of the public, and of the investing public, in the principle of public ownership to which this Province is wed, and that the Government of the day is a party to all that, because it appointed the commission with no other purpose than that; because they know from day to day what its activities are. It read in the Press the expressions that come from the Chairman and other members of the commission, which leave no doubt in anybody's mind as to what the trend of the inquiry is and what the purpose of it is."

Protests Undue Delay.

Mr. Ferguson went on to protest that, although deliberations had gone on for 10 or 11 months, during which the commission's staff had grown to almost the size of that of the Hydro Commission itself, with engineers and lawyers galore, and auditors and accountants to the number of 20 or 25, doing exactly the same work that Clarkson & Co., Government auditors, had already been paid for doing, still "we have not heard a single solitary word about the Chippawa development."

Continuing, the Conservative Leader twitted the Government upon its extended employment of Chairman Gregory upon commissions. If it were necessary, he suggested, to give Mr. Gregory permanent commission employment with the Government, well and good, but it was time he was found another commission and reported on Hydro.

In reply, Premier Drury disputed Mr. Ferguson's statement as to a promise having been made that the report would be ready in three weeks. H. H. Dewart, K.C., interrupted to ask why, if the Govern-