

# The OBSERVER IN QUEEN'S PARK



July 2  
Morrison Mann MacBride had his "crowded hour of glorious life" in the Legislature yesterday. The Independent Labor member from South Brant stretched out his "crowded hour" to two hours and twenty minutes in his speech on the Address. It was a MacBride afternoon, with some fireworks and much verbosity, and after it was all over it was doubtful if the House was any wiser or the legislation of the Province advanced to any appreciable extent.

Mr. MacBride spoke until after 5.30, at which time Mr. Sinclair, Liberal, South Ontario, declined to continue the debate, and asked for, and got, an adjournment. Mr. MacBride had done exactly the same thing at about the same hour the day previous, so a precedent has been set. Perhaps every speaker, if his time comes around 5.30, will now adopt similar tactics and ask for an adjournment.

## Do Some Business.

"I don't like this waste of time," commented Premier Drury, at last showing a bit of impatience at the lack of progress made. On every occasion that Mr. Drury has talked of wasting time Hon. Mr. Ferguson has risen to protest. He did it again yesterday, asking what business was before the House, and adding his opinion that no Government business was ready for consideration. Premier Drury may have prepared a little trap for the Conservative Leader, but he retorted that Mr. Ferguson was "misinformed as usual," and brought the House back to Government orders. In the twenty minutes remaining the Attorney-General obtained a second reading for his bill respecting liens on mechanics, wage-earners and others. Hon. Manning Doherty essayed to do the same thing for his bill amending the Agricultural Development Act, but was not so successful. Mr. Ferguson and Col. J. A. Currie raised several objections to the Minister's amendments, stating that these had the effect of making the Government a loan agency. They blocked progress on the bill, and consideration was left over until Mr. Doherty brings down more specific information.

## Hardly a Wrangle.

Possibly the day was most remarkable for the absence of a serious wrangle, which has come to be looked upon as part of the regular program. Outside of several interruptions during Mr. MacBride's effort, nothing untoward occurred all afternoon. Thus another precedent has been set, but one which is very unlikely to be followed if the House maintains its present temper.

But, to get back to Mr. MacBride. Few legislators would have the courage to tackle the number of subjects he touched upon. He started in by giving the Premier credit for naming the Independent group the Ishmaelites, credit which the Premier declined to accept. The South Brant member, however, did not express displeasure at the title, and, with the aid of Biblical quotation and extracts from an encyclopaedia, tried to make out that the Ishmaelites would develop into a great and powerful party. Following that, he tacked the name Moabites onto the U.F.O., with Balaam as their leader, a man who tried to broaden out and met with disaster. Then he dealt with the national debt, the Provincial debt and the municipal debt. A number of sentences were devoted to government by commission, and he proposed to have all the facts and figures on commissions before the House dissolved.

## Listen to O.T.A. Talk.

Perhaps, to put more life into his

speech, Mr. MacBride referred to the O.T.A., and it is noticeable that whenever a member makes mention of the O.T.A. the House sits up and takes notice. He trumped up the old charge that the Attorney-General had brought the O.T.A. into politics by administering it from his own department, instead of allowing the Liquor Board to do the work. However, he warned the House that the O.T.A. would not be an issue in the coming elections. Increased taxation was the member's next theme, and, following that, he got into a dispute with R. R. Hall, Liberal, Parry Sound, and, after the latter had persisted in interrupting and questioning, Mr. MacBride declined to extend to the Parry Sound man the courtesy of asking any more questions.

Mr. MacBride also desired information about the rumored alignment between the Liberals and the U.F.O. No direct answer being forthcoming, the South Brant representative took up at some length the Fordney tariff, Chinese eggs, unemployment and immigration, and the Oriental menace, in the order named. Again he switched back to the O.T.A. as the most appropriate subject to maintain interest. In this connection he claimed the people were not obtaining what they voted for. He did not think the O.T.A. had saved the boy, and everybody knew that the man who had the money was obtaining the liquor he wanted, though perhaps the quality was not the same as formerly. His theory was that the way to kill the bootlegger was to take the profit out of the business. He advocated that the Province, through the dispensaries, sell liquor at such a price that the bootlegger could not afford to take a chance. Concluding, Mr. MacBride had criticism for the Drury Hydro policy.

## More Conservative Tactics.

As yet no person foresees the end of the debate on the Address. At least half a dozen Government members will desire to speak, together with equal numbers of Liberals and Conservatives. The latter are likely to elaborate the rumors of an alliance between the U.F.O. and the Liberals. As has been stated previously, there is no doubt that many Liberals right in the House feel that the future of the party lies in some sort of understanding with the U.F.O. faction following Mr. Drury. Stress will be placed on this political desire by the Conservatives, in the hope of bringing back to their party those U.F.O. adherents who formerly were Conservatives. However, neither Liberal nor Druryite has yet given a definite lead to bring about any such understanding, and the parties nominally are as far apart as when the rumor was started. On the other hand, one cannot help noticing that the Government have come to rely on a certain amount of help from the Liberals, or perhaps it may be more clearly stated that the Government evidently regard the Conservatives as their chief critics. In view of the Conservative tactics, the utterances of Liberals during the present debate, and on the Budget debate, carry particular significance.