

# SHORTAGE OF LABOR ON ONTARIO FARMS, SAYS HON. M. DOHERTY

Minister of Agriculture De-  
fends Immigration Policy  
of Ontario Government

## UNEMPLOYED IN CITIES

While almost devoid of interest, "Blue Monday" in the Legislature was not altogether barren of results. Several private bills suffered decapitation on second reading—none of them of any considerable interest or importance—two more passed second reading; Hon. Walter Rollo's little Health Act Amendment got into committee—and stuck there; Joseph E. Thompson made his speech on the Address, and Charles McCrea, Conservative, Sudbury, was just stating his objections to Attorney-General Raney's Blue Sky Law when the whistle blew 6 o'clock.

So far as the private bills concerned, it was George Halcrow's busy day. Several of his measures were called in succession, measures to amend the Municipal and Assessment Acts, and, on the last one, to amend the Assessment Act, Mr. Halcrow and the House got so tangled up in attempting to understand it that it was killed on the grounds of "ambiguity." He was not so unfortunate, however, with all of them. K. K. Homuth's bill to empower the Athletic Commission to hold investigations was also advanced a stage.

### Protest Unemployment Claim.

"Before the Orders" was also productive of one or two items of fair interest. A protest from K. K. Homuth, Labor, South Waterloo, over a reported utterance of Sam Harris in Liverpool, to the effect that nobody in Ontario was unemployed except those who would not work, brought on brief discussion of unemployment conditions in their relation to the Government's immigration policy. Hon. G. H. Ferguson stated that the utterance of Mr. Harris, who is Navy League President, would be right in line with that of Hon. Walter Rollo a few days ago in the House, and, therefore, that the Government could not consistently take him to task for it.

### Help Needed on Farms.

G. G. Halcrow, Labor, East Hamilton, participated briefly, asking how the married unemployed in the cities could be expected to work on farms at \$8.27 per week and board; Sam Clarke, Liberal, Northumberland, commented upon the advantages of \$2 a day and board on a farm in comparison with \$5 or \$6 a day in cities; then Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, arose to state his position with regard to protests at any further encouragement of immigration to Ontario.

Then, also of interest, was the announcement of Provincial Treasurer Smith that the Budget address is to be made on Thursday, and that the Public Accounts will be available for the House on Wednesday. The Liberal Leader commented upon the advisability of getting the Public Accounts down early, and Hon. Mr. Smith replied that no Province in the Dominion got its accounts down as early as did Ontario.

# THINKS WELFARE WORK IS BECOMING EXTINCT

Joseph E. Thompson, M.P.P.,  
Makes Plea for Aged  
and Infirm

Somewhat of a novelty in Legislature debate was the speech of Joseph E. Thompson, Conservative member for Northeast Toronto, in the Ontario Legislature yesterday. Disregarding such much-discussed subjects as O.T.A., timber, growing Government expenditures, roads policy, and all the rest of it, the genial member beamed down upon the House in a speech of an hour's duration on the subject of public welfare.

Outstanding in his remarks was his direct advocacy of a Ministry of Public Welfare to look after the interests of those poor unfortunates among the citizenship consigned through poverty, ill-health, or other varied reasons, to public institutions.

The member for Northeast Toronto regretted that the Speech from the Throne was full of intimations concerning things material. In his opinion, public welfare work had virtually come to a standstill since the departure of the late Hon. W. J. Hanna, and he feared Ontario was drifting back to the old assumption that punishment, rather than reclamation, was the cure-all for all crime and error. Another suggestion Mr. Thompson had was for a centralization at some beauty spot in Ontario of all the Province's aged and infirm. His idea was to take them away from the crowded cities, where he believed many of them to be housed, and place them in a real beauty spot. He thought that some of the Government's commission activities might well have been utilized in the direction of inquiry into conditions surrounding inmates of Provincial institutions.

He regretted exceedingly that the Government had not seen fit to bring down some measure for the establishment of old age pensions.