

'BECOME LIBERALS AND BROADEN OUT,' SINCLAIR'S ANSWER

South Ontario Member Says U. F. O. Has Nothing in Common With His Party

HAS NO USE FOR GROUPS

When Premier Drury announces to an expectant electorate the personnel of his new "Progressive" Cabinet, W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., Liberal member for South Ontario, will not be prominently mentioned. As a Liberal Mr. Sinclair quite emphatically read himself out of the new party during his address on the Budget in the House yesterday.

"Real Progressives."

Although in his "broadening-out" references the Liberal party's financial critic distinctly expressed the opinion that there should be no exodus from the ranks of Liberalism, he opened wide the gates for the reception of any repentant U.F.O. adherents. Liberalism, he declared, represented the real progressive spirit of the Province and the nation. If there were truth in the rumors of a desire on the part of the powers that be for fusion or alliance, they were welcome to enrol themselves under its banner.

Mr. Sinclair twitted Premier Drury upon his apparent change of heart upon the subject of "broadening out," as illustrated in his speech of June, 1919, and later ones, in which he clearly advocated "broadening out." Reading from extracts of the Premier's earlier addresses he stressed Hon. Mr. Drury's references to "the dead and defunct Liberal party," and, as Mr. Sinclair phrased it, "the wicked Conservative party," and recalled the terms of the Premier's letter of last summer, which was generally interpreted as the first official move toward "broadening out."

Are Not Affinities.

"To my mind," said Mr. Sinclair, "there can be no joining of Liberals to the Progressive party. There is a lot of talk going on in that regard. There can be no objection, however, to U.F.O., Progressive, or any other man, who thinks as Liberals think, to join the Liberal party, but the Liberal party is too big, and too old, and has too honored a tradition in the history of this country and of the Motherland, to take any second place to a party which has been organized on class consciousness and now seeks to shift its foundation and to get down to some other basis.

"I say that if the class conscious idea, if the U.F.O. idea, has spent its day—as many of us think it has—there is a welcome in the Liberal party for any of those who think as Liberals do. But I can assure the Progressives and the Premier of the Province of Ontario, that the Liberals of Ontario will not think of falling in behind him, with his record of extravagance over the past three years.

"I say that there is room in political life for only two lines of political thought. We cannot, when we discuss politics and national affairs, think occupationally. We must think nationally. We cannot have a series of groups and think nationally, but we must think politically as parties. Class consciousness has shown its record in the Province of Ontario, and the people of the Province are not going to be long in returning to the two-party system, by means of which men of business ability, professional men, tradesmen, farmers, and all classes in the community, are represented on the floor of the House, and bring to the Legislature the wisdom and judgment of the different occupations in life."

Matter of Bookkeeping.

In one respect, the address of the Liberal financial critic was a distinct novelty, in that he did not pretend to show wherein the Drury

Government's million-dollar surplus was really a deficit, and he did not utter one word of criticism of the Provincial Treasurer's methods of bookkeeping, by which he arrived at a surplus. Mr. Sinclair contented himself in this regard with commenting that surpluses were always a matter of bookkeeping, and with pointing out that but for two items of revenue—one entirely unexpected and received perilously near the close of the year—of \$1,800,000, partial payment of succession duties on the estate of the late Sir John Eaton, and of \$3,000,000 revenue from the tax on race-tracks, the Public Accounts would have shown a tremendous deficit.

Another item in Mr. Sinclair's criticism was the discarding on the part of the Government of its proposed scheme to take two million dollars out of the revenue from motor licenses and capitalize it for road-building and maintenance purposes. Mr. Sinclair intimated that he didn't blame the Government for reconsidering its decision to take this amount out of the ordinary revenue, because it would have changed

the million-dollar surplus into a million-dollar deficit.

Sees Rocks Ahead.

In this connection, the member for South Ontario ventured the opinion that the Government's sinking fund proposal would also next year, be found to have gone by the boards, if the pursuit of that policy was found to involve the creation of a deficit rather than a surplus.

Another reference, taken from the pith of Mr. Sinclair's financial criticisms, was a reminder to the House of the mounting expenditures under the Drury Government. "On the basis of 1919 expenditure of the Province," he declared, "our surplus this year would have been \$18,534,459. If we had spent no more than in 1920 our surplus would have been \$12,500,000. If we had spent no more than in 1921 our surplus would have been \$10,000,000. Those figures show the startling spread there is between the figures of the not too distant past and the figures of the present time."

Reads Out Items.

Accepting the challenge which had been thrown out from the Government benches to show items of expenditure in public accounts which were not necessary expenditures, Mr. Sinclair read out a dozen items of various sizes, admitting at the same time that he did not pretend to be able to learn from the context of the accounts just what the purpose of the expenditure was. He humorously criticized certain items referring to "living allowance" granted to Commissioner Gregory and his colleagues of the Hydro Inquiry Commission, and of the \$1,000 per month salary to Mr. Wegenast, and concluded that the whole expenditure of \$146,000 on the Hydro Inquiry Commission was unwarranted. Another item on which he desired enlightenment was that of \$3,000-odd for revolvers, and he wanted to know if the Provincial Police desired two weapons each, "one to shoot frontward and the other backward."

There was hardly a department that Mr. Sinclair did not touch upon in his exhaustive resume and criticism of public finances, but his outstanding references were to expenditures on road building. Faulty organization in the work of road construction, he thought, was unduly running up the cost of the good roads system to the taxpayers, and he expressed the opinion that those whose property adjoined the improved roads should pay a larger share than farmers living 50 or 100 miles away in the county.

Agricultural Conditions.

Upon agriculture he showed from statistics that the present Government had cut in half the percentage expenditures upon the basic industry, and said that the Drury Government had missed the grand opportunity of appointing a really worth-while commission—one to inquire into agricultural conditions and see if anything could be done by the Government to further agriculture's interest.

In a startling array of figures he held up the increases in public expenditure and general liability, and later went on to criticize some of Provincial Treasurer Peter Smith's bond sale transactions, when \$20,000,000 worth of bonds were sold following a \$5,000,000 advertise-

ment. Hon. Mr. Smith, however, was quite prepared to argue the merits of that particular sale, and rose in his place to make his explanation.

"Seven Book-makers."

Whereas the former Administration had become famous under the soubriquet of "The Seven Sleepers," the present Administration, Mr. Sinclair declared, should go down in history as "The Seven Book-makers." Although Mr. Sinclair's particular reference was to the previous speeches of Attorney-General Raney and Hon. Manning Doherty, which, he assumed, were for subsequent presentation to the electorate, he said he would leave the House to draw another inference if it so desired, in which connection he would go even so far as to call them "The Seven Handbook-makers."

Mr. Sinclair also made frequent excursions into the book of U.F.O. platforms, which, he said, called for economy in Provincial affairs and good roads for the many. He also made some sarcastic comments upon platforms and policies as contrasted to actual accomplishments.