

either a "salmon or a trout."

He touched upon Hydro, denying that he was anti-Hydro, but condemning the radial project, which, he said, would have compelled the Northern Ontario "milk cow" to provide funds for railways for southern Ontario. The people between Toronto and Niagara, he said, could now finance and run their own scheme without Government assistance, as they had long declared they were able to do.

He put in a strong plea for Government action toward development of St. Lawrence navigation and power, estimating that the 13,000,000 tons of coal which would annually be saved by power development were worth \$145,000,000, which would pay for the work inside three years. But it was not a job for the Dominion Government, in Mr. Hall's opinion—it was a job for the Province of Ontario, and Ontario must maintain all her rights in that connection.

Blundered on North's Fire.

Mr. Hall charged that somebody had "seriously blundered" in connection with the removal of fire-rangers from the Northern Ontario area recently devastated by fire. The Government, he said, was, in a way, responsible, even if it had been asked to remove the rangers, and should have protected the people against themselves. Premier Drury pointed out during Mr. Hall's remarks that the fire-rangers had been removed two seasons ago.

The Parry Sound member, who is versed in North country geography and economics, ridiculed the Government's expenditure upon an extension of the T. & N.O. Railway to Tin Can. Presumably, he said, it was to tap the "vast pulp areas" of James Bay, but he doubted if these pulp areas really existed. He had seen photographs showing the "mighty" rivers to have cobblestones sticking up in the middle of them, and the pulpwood to be confined to the edge of rivers.

Believes Coal in North.

He aroused the interest of the Premier and the House by the statement that he was a firm believer in the presence of coal in Northern Ontario. He had found

the conglomerate which was said to be a sure indication of the presence of coal. He ventured the opinion that if extensive drilling were carried on in the clay belt between the height of land and James Bay, Ontario's fuel problem would be solved.

Turning to discuss the timber question, Mr. Hall declared that the time had come when the Government should be very sparing in the way in which it leased forest lands to pulp mill operations. He advised particular caution in dealing with the Backus and Shevlin companies, which, he said, had worked together "to skin" North Dakota, and had now shifted their scene of operations to Ontario.

Trouble Looms in Sight For Casselman's Bill

"You may rest assured that it will meet one of the many forms of death that the Legislature devises for such undesirable bills," Premier Drury assured a deputation from the Home and School Council, Teachers' Association, Women's Council and the Trades and Labor Council which waited upon him yesterday, protesting against the measure introduced by W. H. Casselman, U. F. O. member for Dundas, which would suspend the operation of the Adolescent Act for five years.

The Premier declared that his Government had always taken an advanced stand on social matters, and had increased grants to universities and other institutions of learning. Prof. J. A. Dale, C. E. Sissons and James Simpson spoke for the deputation.

List of Convictions

Is Sought by Dewart

In the Legislature yesterday H. H. Dewart, K.C., moved for a return of all convictions made in the Police Court for the city of Toronto for breach of the Ontario Temperance Act between June 13, 1922, and March 8, 1923, showing (a) the name of the person convicted, (b) the offense charged, (c) the fine and penalty imposed, and (d) the name in each case of the convicting Magistrate.

The OBSERVER IN QUEEN'S PARK



Quick thinking by Dr. H. A. Stevenson (Labor, London) yesterday afternoon saved the Drury Government several hours' bitter criticism, to say nothing of another delay in legislative business. It looked as though the House had settled down to a lengthy debate on the St. Lawrence development scheme—a debate which would land nowhere, but which might enhance considerably the Legislature's reputation for verbiage. Taking advantage of a slight lull in the talk, Dr. Stevenson moved that the House proceed to the orders of the day. The Speaker said the motion had carried, and, for the first time this session, the clamp was applied. Perhaps Premier Drury now has a precedent which he may follow if he desires to speed up business, even if it did evolve out of as tangled a bit of procedure as Mr. Speaker was ever called upon to solve.

No Money for Propaganda.

The trouble started right after prayers, when W. H. Casselman, Dundas, a somewhat rebellious U.F.O. member, asked the Premier if it were correct that the Government had refused a \$10,000 grant for propaganda in favor of St. Lawrence power and navigation development. Mr. Casselman incidentally remarked that this money would be better spent for the purpose named than the hundreds of thousands of dollars for "useless commissions," all of which shows really independent U.F.O. thought.

In his reply the Premier emphatically stated the Government view of expenditure for propaganda, a statement which may have an application in important Hydro matters. Mr. Drury, after confessing himself a believer in the potentialities of the St. Lawrence, claimed there were two rival associations seeking the same objects regarding the St. Lawrence, both trying to shape public opinion in favor of the development. The expenditure of public money for propaganda purposes formed a precedent so dangerous he would never undertake it. Such things had brought about the downfall of Europe. "If you devote public money to shaping public opinion, whether rightly or wrongly, you do away with the will of the people," added the Premier. Later he said it was a travesty on democracy to advance money for propaganda. Besides, money ought to be spent where the Government could control it. Parts of Quebec were opposed to the St. Lawrence development, and that Province might vote money to fight the scheme, thereby leading to unending complications. The money was to be spent to create that which Governments ought to follow—that is, public opinion. This declaration no doubt ends any propaganda funds, so far as this Government is concerned.

Over Their Depth.

But, to picture the tangle in procedure which followed, Mr. McNamara (Independent, Riverdale)

Seek Premier's Aid

On Incorporation Bill

Representatives of York township, Mount Dennis and Humbervale held a private conference with Premier Drury yesterday, requesting his assistance in the passage of their requests for incorporation. Hon. Geo. S. Henry introduced the deputation, which included R. Home Smith and Thomas Urquhart.

claimed he had a resolution on the order paper since early in February dealing with St. Lawrence development, but discussion of this was later ruled out of order, as bearing on a different phase. However, Mr. MacBride, South Brant, had his favorite method of discussing the same subject, by moving the adjournment of the House. This is the fifth time this session he has done the same thing. After the South Brant man had concluded by calling the Premier's policy "strange and weird," Dr. Stevenson moved that the House proceed to the orders of the day. "Carried," echoed the Premier quickly. R. R. Hall (Liberal, Parry Sound) was on his feet with a speech at the end of his tongue, and protesting. Mr. Casselman also arose to rebuke the Premier, claiming that this was the second attempt in the last few days to apply closure. H. P. Hill (Conservative, West Ottawa) caught the Speaker's eye to air a grievance all his own, regarding his not being notified when a committee had slaughtered a bill of his during the morning. W. F. Nickle (Conservative, Kingston) then disputed the Speaker's ruling that Dr. Stevenson's motion was in order. Mr. Hall again tried to make his speech, this time on a matter of privilege, and was refused. Z. Mageau (Liberal, Sturgeon Falls) also tried to say a word, and met a similar fate. Then the House proceeded to the orders of the day, but only an hour and a half had been spent in the wrangle, whereas had the discussion proceeded it would have gone till 6 o'clock, at least. In any event, a rather important statement of Government policy had been obtained.

It should be added that Mr. Speaker Parliament based his ruling on a passage from the Members' Manual, which reads: "A motion for reading the orders of the day shall have preference of any motion before the House."

Mr. Nickle's objection apparently had reference to another rule, which governs only days when notices of motion had precedence. The Speaker held that yesterday was not one of those days when notices of motion had precedence.

Divisions on Front Bench.

Another of those odd incidents arose just before the 6 o'clock adjournment. T. Tooms (Labor, West Peterboro) moved second reading to his bill respecting the administration of oaths. This measure would admit the taking of an oath by means of any ceremony, and provided that it was unnecessary to "kiss the Book." Premier Drury bluntly told the House he could see no good purpose in the bill, and thought it ought to be killed. The Speaker was just going to order the execution when the Attorney-General, sitting beside the Premier, rose to defend the measure, claiming that it took the ambiguity out of the present law. The House laughed heartily at this real division in the Ministerial ranks. Then R. L. Brackin (Liberal, West Kent) took a hand to explain that there was no requirement in the law now that a witness must "kiss