

Premier Drury is more silent about his political future than he is on the Government's plans for redistribution. With respect to the latter issue, he has promised to announce his plans when he speaks in the Budget debate. Mr. Drury, however, will say absolutely nothing concerning the reports that efforts are being made to heal the breach between him and J. J. Morrison; neither will he comment on that other most interesting rumor, that there may be a working understanding with some Liberals. Perhaps the Premier does not know. More than likely he is still floundering through the mists of political uncertainty, feeling his way hither and thither, but seeing no path ahead that looks safe enough to keep him in power.

Yesterday Col. H. S. Cooper (Liberal, Northwest Toronto) asked Mr. Drury some pertinent questions. Col. Cooper is one of those Liberals who desire no alliance with the Farmers, but who want the Liberal party to fight as it is. "It is coming to the time to get a definite statement from the Premier and the Liberal party as to what is going on behind the scenes," added Col. Cooper, after reading and discussing the newspaper reports.

An Abuse of Privilege.

"I do not think the question of politics, fiction perhaps, is the business of this House," retorted the Premier, who later added that such inquiries constituted an abuse of privilege before the orders of the day were called.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson rose to Col. Cooper's aid. "This is a matter of public moment," said Mr. Ferguson. "The Province is entitled to know. These are matters of public welfare. The Premier should be prepared to tell the public what his course is to be."

The Premier was obdurate. Not a word, not even a denial, came from him. The only conclusion is that Mr. Drury is not sure of his political future, or that negotiations have not progressed far enough for him to either confirm or deny. However, the "Anti-poke-your-nose-in Society" was not introduced into the discussion.

Keep Assets in Ontario.

The failure of the L. R. Steel Company may result in some drastic action by the Legislature. J. W. Curry (Liberal, Southeast Toronto), after Premier Drury could give the House little information because of Hon. Mr. Raney's absence, said he had taken the matter up with the Attorney-General last week. The only thing to be done was to pass an act at once which would prevent the transfer of the company's Ontario assets to the United States. Mr. Curry left the impression that he had convinced the Attorney-General of the importance of such a measure.

Incidentally, Mr. Curry held up the Steel failure as a reason for the passing of Mr. Raney's Blue Sky Bill. No Steel stock had been sold in the Prairie Provinces, where they have such a measure. Canadian money had been taken from British Columbia and Ontario. Mr. Curry claimed the passage of the Blue Sky Bill would save another such fiasco as the Steel failure. Premier Drury called the Steel crash a "swindle," while G. G. Halcrow, who first raised the question, said Robin Hood and his friends were gentlemen when compared with the Steel people.

They Break Their Silence.

These two matters disposed of, the House spent the remainder of the afternoon grinding out an unusual amount of legislative grist. Most discussion centred about two bills for which Hon. George S. Henry asked second reading. One of them provided county local

option in requiring sleighs to have a width of 4 feet 9 inches between runners. The other gave municipalities the right to say that all vehicles must carry lights at night. The sleigh bill carried, and the lights bill was lost. However, as both bills were familiar subjects for the Farmer members, several hitherto inarticulate voices were heard. Neither H. H. Dewart nor W. E. N. Sinclair, both of whom have been rather severely critical of Government members for their continued silence, was in the House, and so missed the answers to their aspersions. It was something of a surprise to see the wider sleigh bill carry, but evidently rural members felt sure their County Councils would never pass such a local measure. But the idea of compulsion regarding lights on all vehicles is more distasteful. One member even went so far as to kick because he would be required to have a light if he had a load of hay on the road at night. After much talk, Mr. Halcrow, taking advantage of being a city member, had a few harsh words for the opponents of lighted vehicles. He claimed it was a measure to save human life, adding: "If there is anything that adds one or two dollars to the expense of the farmer, you hear a great holler." R. R. Hall (Liberal, Parry Sound) was more sweeping in his criticism. Mr. Hall has evidently had narrow escapes from motors in the city streets, so he claimed a measure was needed to teach motorists common-sense. The lights on vehicles bill was lost by 20 to 27.

Mr. Biggs' Highway Bill.

During the evening session Hon. F. C. Biggs gave what he termed as a "rough outline" of his bill to regulate travel on highways, operation and load of vehicles. The bill was given second reading. Mr. Biggs was asked numerous questions during his elucidation, but these did not bother him, because everyone knows that no Minister has the details of his department more in hand than the same Mr. Biggs. The bill contains 38 pages, and, as practically all members are more or less familiar with the subjects under legislation, it is sure to occupy considerable time in committee. On the second reading last night the main criticism came from Hon. Mr. Ferguson, who said he would make all motor drivers pass "some sort" of examination. Mr. Biggs replied that "some sort" of legislation was just what he desired to avoid. "We don't want 'some sort' of examination," he maintained, adding that the method to make motor drivers qualify was to make them responsible. The examination of every motor driver in the Province would be an enormous undertaking, and, if done at all, should be done efficiently. Mr. Biggs doubted if such work could be properly accomplished.

Still Undecided on P. R.

The Government forces are still undecided about proportional representation. Some U.F.O. members attended the P.R. meeting in Toronto last week, where that system of voting was explained. Most of these members came away more puzzled than ever. One of them confessed he was either thick-headed or the P. R. experts themselves did not know what they were talking about. It is evident there will be considerable argument in Government caucuses before P. R. is accepted by the members to the right of the Speaker. The Premier may try to experiment with this system of voting in Toronto, but even then he will meet with protests from his followers. These members may not have any particular love for Toronto, but they fear the thin edge of the wedge, and many of them are still emphatic in their declarations that the folks back home do not want any P. R.

SURPLUS IS MYTH, DEFICIT \$1,892,000, NICKLE EMPHASIZES

Accuses U.F.O. of Seeking
Notoriety by Nagging
Sir Adam Beck

SPEAKS ENTIRE EVENING

Before crowded galleries and an intensely interested Legislature, W. F. Nickle, K.C., Conservative member for Kingston, made his promised grand assault upon the Drury Government's Budget in the Legislature last night. Mr. Nickle, in his calculations, turned the million-dollar surplus into a deficit of \$1,892,000, and estimated that in four years' administration the Drury Government's deficits had aggregated over \$6,000,000.

Rakes Fore and Aft.

The member for Kingston exhausted every avenue and almost every detail of Provincial finance in his address, which was among the most lengthy made in the present Parliament. Commencing at 5.35 p.m. he kept on until 6, started in again at 8.15 and proceeding until 11.30 p.m., when he asked for, and was refused, permission to adjourn the debate by the Prime Minister. His conclusions, after enumerating and explaining every item, were that \$2,957,000 had gone into capital account which should have gone into ordinary expenditures.

On toward the midnight hour Mr. Nickle pressed his extraordinary oratorical effort, his energy and intellect appearing as keen as when he started, although his voice began to show signs of giving out. Applause from the Conservative benches was frequent, while the attitude of the Liberal group, at least in some sections of it, seemed to be that of disagreement with the premises of much of his argument. All members, however, appeared to give credit to Mr. Nickle for the outstanding speech of the session in literary brilliancy and in evidence of exhaustive effort in work of preparation.

Uses Biting Satire.

The member for Kingston drew forth applause from many corners of the House when he satirized the Government for its continual nagging at the heels of "a great man," Sir Adam Beck, sheltered as it was behind a commission. He demanded pronouncement from the Premier upon his intended political course; called upon the Government to appoint a committee to deal with redistribution, and accused the Government of "hypocrisy" in that it had profited to the extent of over a million dollars in the sale of liquor from Government dispensaries.

Analyzes 1919 Results.

Mr. Nickle, in opening his address, said he believed that the success of the agrarian forces in the 1919 Provincial election had been due to the disorganization of the Liberal party and dissatisfaction with the Conservative. As a result a great body of independent voters had adopted class principles wholeheartedly, in the belief that that way lay the road to economic betterment.

"The people of the Province at the time this Government was formed," continued Mr. Nickle, "were inclined to give class-coalition Government a chance. For this is not a group Government. A true group Government would have within the ranks of its Ministry representatives from all the groups—Liberals and Conservatives included. This is a class-coalition Government."

For three years following the accession to power of this class-coalition Government, a comparative quiet had reigned. Then had come the "broadening-out" controversy Premier Drury had thrown down the