

MONEY SPENT EAST NORTH SHOULD GET, MARCEAU DECLARES

**Nipissing Member Charges
Drury Administration
With Extravagance in
Old Ontario at Expense
of Newer Sections of
Province — MacBride
Scores Government
Policy of Nagging at
Hydro**

BUDGET CRITICISM FREELY LAUNCHED

Of three speakers in the Budget debate in the Ontario Legislature yesterday—a Liberal, Labor and U. F. O. member—two added their voices to the general demand that the Drury Government proceed immediately with general redistribution in the Province of Ontario.

J. H. Marceau, Liberal member for Nipissing, made a strong plea for just representation for Northern Ontario, which he conceived to be lamentably under-represented in the Provincial Parliament, and entitled to at least five or six more members. M. M. MacBride, Independent Labor member for South Brant, advised Government members never again to talk of "Government by the people" if they refused to rearrange Provincial ridings. Edgar Watson, U.F.O. member for North Victoria, did not discuss redistribution, but made one of the ablest detailed financial defenses of Drury Government financing that has as yet been heard from Government benches.

Resumes Debate.

J. H. Marceau, Liberal member for Nipissing, resumed the debate shortly after 3 o'clock, launching into a demand for immediate redistribution of the Ontario electoral divisions. Voicing the demand of Northern Ontario for justice in its representation strength on the floor of the Provincial Parliament, Mr. Marceau stated the population of his riding of Nipissing to be 22,583, scattered over an area of 6,000 square miles. Then, in contrast, he cited a dozen older Ontario rural municipalities with populations of under 15,000, far more centralized.

"If any honorable member of this House can say in justice that we should not have redistribution as early as possible," said Mr. Marceau, "and that Northern Ontario should not have at least five or six members more than we have at the present time, I should like to hear him say it."

In further discussion of the subject the Nipissing member went on to quote statistics which showed that in thirteen ridings of Northern Ontario there was a representative unit of 21,231, as compared with the lower unit of 20,000 of population to a Provincial member in the 98 ridings of older Ontario, even including the under-represented urban municipalities.

Five-sixths of Ontario.

Then, from item to item, he dealt with the various branches of Northern Ontario wealth, including its gold, silver, nickel and timber resources, and, Mr. Marceau said, its oftentimes underestimated agricultural resources. He reminded the House that the section of the Province which was referred to as Northern Ontario comprised five-sixths of the entire area of Ontario. Ninety-eight per cent. of the natural resources of the Province, he said, belonged to that country.

Touching upon some of the complaints of New Ontario, Mr. Marceau asked why an item of \$186,115 voted

for Northern Ontario had remained unexpended, and, when Hon. Beniah Bowman ventured the explanation that the Drury Government was practicing economy, the member for Nipissing said that the Drury Government, in that event, ought to be ashamed of itself for practicing economy at the expense of the settlers up there.

At Expense of North.

He went on to show that items of hundreds of thousands of dollars appearing in the Public Accounts which might reasonably be assumed to have been spent in Northern Ontario were in reality divided between it and the newer districts of older Ontario. Of \$750,000 for colonization, he said, \$559,000 had been spent that way, and the same with trunk roads, in which item, Mr. Marceau said, Northern Ontario was being charged with \$125,000 that had been spent in older Ontario. In essence, his big financial criticism was that Northern Ontario was not receiving anything like the financial expenditure to which it was entitled.

Listing the various central roads of the nearer North country, he voiced a demand for some permanent improvement. Much of the effort at temporary construction, he thought, was effort and money wasted. In connection with power matters, he reiterated Northern Ontario's request for French River power development, not under the Hydro Act, but under a system of Government ownership. Power he believed to be the crux of Northern Ontario settlement problems.

Nothing Done by Government.

The Nipissing member trained his guns upon the Tory group, rehearsing their record of timber administration, and, detailing the concerns dealt with by the Riddell-Latchford Commission, asked Hon. Beniah Bowman what had been done in the way of securing redress. Hon. Mr. Bowman was unable to give definite information on many of the items of request, but in the main, it appeared, nothing had as yet been done concerning the various companies in which Mr. Marceau had particular interest.

Mr. Marceau declared that there was need for greater co-operation between many of the Crown Timber Agents and the department, voicing some complaint against the administration of the agent at North Bay; protested at the manipulations of the timber wolves" who settled agricultural land for the timber, and asked for more careful investigation of agricultural lots before they were handed over to new settlers as reasonable agricultural propositions.

M. M. MacBride, Labor member for South Brant, urged that, with an election inevitable not later than this fall, it was the duty of Premier Drury to declare to the people where he stood in the much-discussed U. F. O.-Liberal alliance. Recalling the circumstances of Mr. Drury's choice as Leader, Mr. MacBride challenged him to go before the same U.F.O. Executive and seek a vote of confidence.

Brant's Member Critical.

Commenting upon what he termed a disposition on the part of present Cabinet Ministers to excuse certain actions because such things had been done by the Hearst Government, the South Brant member charged hypocrisy. "If you favored the thing they did," he said, "why didn't you support it?"

The member called attention to the fact that, with fewer persons employed, industrial accidents had increased 25 per cent. in Ontario last year, and that, over the same period, payments by the Workmen's Compensation Board had shown a decrease. It indicated, he said, absolute lack of proper inspection, and, in the same connection, he held the Government partly responsible for the departure of many skilled