

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

The member for Prescott criticized the appointment of a legislative secretary for Northern Ontario as useless expenditure, and predicted that in the creation of a separate Department of Health, the Government, a year hence, would have a new Minister of Labor functioning as an addition to the Cabinet.

#### Progressives Insulted.

J. G. Lethbridge, Progressive member for West Middlesex, commenced with an expression of regret at the "insult" which had been offered the Progressive group by the Prime Minister when their acquiescence in the appointment of a Speaker was not sought. Premier Ferguson reminded him that Hon. Manning Doherty was on the floor at the time of the appointment and could have voiced opinion.

Mr. Doherty—I do not usually do things when I am not invited. If it had not been for my regard for you, Mr. Speaker, I would have stepped forward and put another nomination in.

The Middlesex member protested against the use of the Legislature privilege by members to say things "about the press or any other individual" that the member would not dare say outside of the Chamber.

#### What Preacher Found.

Taking up the endorsement of previous members of the Province of Quebec's liquor system, Mr. Lethbridge quoted Rev. E. Lavergne of Quebec to show that the system was not all that some people claimed it to be.

After reminding Government members that the four years' deficit figures of Provincial Treasurer Price did not agree with deficit statistics presented in those previous years by such eminent critics as Hon. Charles McCrea, Mr. Lethbridge proceeded to endorse the demand of previous Liberal spokesmen for a standardized system of Government accounting.

In connection with the decline of \$1,700,000 in Forest and Lands Department revenues, he asked whether it was the result of bad business on the part of the new Government, or was it a matter of being good to one's own? He proceeded to show by statistics that, whereas farm products had declined in value to nearly pre-war prices, the things the farmer had to buy were all about 100 per cent. over pre-war prices.

#### Against St. Lawrence Deal?

He urged caution in connection with St. Lawrence development plans. In spite of all estimates and assurances of costs and the "cheapest power in the world," Mr. Lethbridge said, all these estimates had a tendency to prove too low. One thing he hoped was that, if new power was to be developed, opportunity would be given the farmer to utilize its benefits.

In the matter of public ownership, Mr. Lethbridge endorsed the statements of Sir James Loughheed, who had stated that Governments had extended the scope too greatly to include the field of sociology and of public utilities, giving the Canadian National Railways proposed branch lines as examples. Sir James had said that many times the State enters a field without regard for its ability to compete with private enterprises.

"Now, the problem is this," he said. "I have here another statement by a Dominion man that it is going to cost double or three times what it is estimated. What should be done before entering a thing of that kind is to take the advice of that man and have a thorough investigation as to whether it is going to cost the Province too much as a public ownership matter, or whether we will do as they are doing in Quebec, let private interests develop it and keep governmental control over it."

#### "Faraway Pastures."

Instancing Quebec's dealing with her power matters, he said that we were told that Quebec had just as cheap or cheaper power than we had. And he had read in The Financial Post that in the United States they were putting in a plant which would produce \$50 power.

"We know that the Chippawa cost us about \$260 a horsepower. So this is a great question, and I don't know whether the Government would be wise to plunge into it, and whether the Dominion Government would help or not."

#### Recalls Hearst's Fall.

Mr. McKeown, discussing the Ontario Temperance Act, took his stand in favor of the declaration of the Premier that just as soon as there is a sufficient demand from the people of Ontario to cast a vote on the O.T.A. the people would be given the privilege of voting. Was there a man in the House, he asked, who would say that that was not a fair,

honest and British way of dealing with the question?

If he were to speak the sentiments of his constituents, Mr. McKeown continued, he would say directly opposite to what had been said in the House by the member from Southwest Toronto and by the member for North Waterloo. But he thought there should be some compromise as between the different views of members. He declared the record of the Conservative party on temperance matters showed progress in temperance legislation unequalled anywhere. He told of the petitions of the Committee of One Hundred, and declared the Government of the day was told that they were not politicians, but when the Government put the matter to a vote "they went to the ballot and voted prohibition, and on the very same day, and by the same ballot, they cast us down."

#### Criticism of Courts.

He made criticism of Justices and Judges who censured juries for verdicts brought in, and said that the juryman in his position as a jurymen was just as supreme and just as important as the man who sits on the Bench. He hoped also that the Government would do something for the betterment of the prices of the products of the farms in Ontario, and suggested in that respect the establishment of Government-owned elevators, which would guarantee the farmer a minimum price on his product. Government-owned elevators would be far more popular, he said, than Government-controlled liquor.

Pleas for the establishment of small hospitals in some of the small centres between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie were made by A. G. Wallis (Liberal, Algoma).

He heartily approved the Government's move to grant a bounty on iron ore, a bill which, he said, he would take pleasure in supporting.

Continuing, Mr. Wallis urged some

regulation regarding medical inspection of lumber camps, referring to the dangers accruing from the close contact of numbers of men, some of whom were afflicted with contagious diseases. He also urged that the Government adopt some progressive reforestation policy.

"I believe in the theory of the O.T.A.," he said. "But I believe that in its application it has been very bad in some respects. I believe that instead of the O.T.A., some system of Government control would be preferable."

M. Vaughan, Conservative member for Welland, urged the institution of an embargo on pulp, expressing the opinion that American pulp concerns were merely using our country as storehouses for their raw products. Coming from a "wet" constituency, he conveyed what he declared

to be his constituents' request that the people have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the Ontario Temperance Act.

Several public bills were given second reading before the Budget debate was resumed. By the terms of one, sponsored by William Keith (Conservative, North York), townships bordering on cities having a population of less than 100,000 will have the right to examine, license and regulate electrical workers. Another bill, introduced by J. C. Milligan (Conservative, Stormont), gives persons assessed the right to appeal against their assessment.

#### Other Bills Discussed.

Some discussion took place on the bill of A. C. Lewis (Conservative, Northeast Toronto), which gives township municipalities the right to purchase fire equipment without the assent of the electors. This feature was opposed by Hon. Manning Doherty, but supported by Zotique Mageau (Liberal, Sturgeon Falls). The bill passed second reading.

A notice of motion by Peter

Heenan (Labor, Kenora) calls upon timber concessionaires to pay the prevailing rate of wages to their employees and asks the Government to insert a clause in contracts to that effect.

E. Proulx, Liberal member for Prescott, opened at night with brief comments upon the record of the previous Government, which, he thought, had inclined too much to commissions. Speaking particularly of its special Hotels Committee, he ridiculed the suggestion for a university course for hotelkeepers. He did not think the committee's report was worth its cost.

## Trooper Bowen's Case Before Legislature

Before the orders of the day were called in the Legislature yesterday, J. A. McCausland, Conservative member for Southwest Toronto, returned to the subject of the Stanley Barracks incident. He stated that Trooper Bowen was now a deserter, having gone to Buffalo, and had committed perjury, inasmuch as he had sworn he was a British subject and now claimed to be a United States citizen. He asked the Attorney-General to take these facts into consideration, with a view to revising sentences passed on Bowen's assailants. Hon. Mr. Nickle made no reply.