

Wednesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>

# TIME TO "WAKE UP," IS TAYLOR'S ADVICE TO PROHIBITIONISTS

## Progressive Member Ac- cuses Them of Voting Party, Not Temperance

### DRURY IS AGAIN RAPPED

Of the six speakers who participated in the debate on the Address in the Legislature yesterday, three declared themselves against the Government's proposed 4.4 beer amendment, two declared themselves in favor, and one did not deal with the issue.

Those who declared themselves in favor of the Government's proposed amendment to the Ontario Temperance Act were W. S. Haney, Conservative member for West Lambton, and E. P. Tellier, Liberal member for North Essex. Those who made known their intention to vote against it were L. W. Oke, U.F.O. member for East Lambton; Hon. Manning Doherty, Progressive member for East Kent, and D. J. Taylor, Progressive member for North Grey.

#### Attack on Drury.

The two Farmer members, Mr. Oke and Mr. Taylor, supplied the most interesting material in what was a rather dead day at the Legislature. The former accused his former leader, Hon. E. C. Drury, of disloyalty to the U.F.O. cause in seeking to form a new Progressive party, and went on to declare that Mr. Drury's head had latterly assumed an abnormal size.

Mr. Taylor, amid the applause of the Conservatives, stated that unquestionably the votes of the anti-temperance people had gone to the U.F.O. party in 1919, the wets, he said, in their belligerent mood, being willing to take a chance on anybody. He added that undoubtedly the Drury Government had suffered from the same considerations, and declared that the temperance people of Ontario who had been voting politics ahead of temperance had to wake up.

#### Urges Flat Rate for Power.

J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry) resumed the debate yesterday afternoon. Producing a large map to show Hydro developments in the Province, he went on to say that the Hydro development in the eastern part of the Province seemed to be neglected to some extent. After hearing what the Hydro had done to develop Ontario, he wondered if Eastern Ontario were in Ontario at all. He urged that some effort should be made to give the people in Ontario a flat rate on Hydro power.

Hon. Manning Doherty, former Minister of Agriculture, after twitting the Administration with its unsuccessful efforts to capture South Waterloo from K. K. Homuth, formerly a supporter of the U.F.O. Government, but now an Independent Laborite, proceeded to compliment the Ferguson Government for having assisted in the unemployment problem by contributions of work rather than doles, to which he declared himself bitterly opposed.

Coming to the O.T.A. issue, Mr. Doherty conceived that Premier Ferguson had committed the supreme blunder in a series of blunders in connection with the liquor question in moving for 4.4 per cent. beer. He could not follow Attorney-General Nickle's argument that "if you want to keep people sober the best way is to let them get half-drunk," and characterized the whole of Mr. Nickle's reasoning as being "as straight as a corkscrew."

Mr. Ferguson—What do you know about corkscrews?

Mr. Doherty—That is an unkind

remark, because the last time I saw one my honorable friend came to me and asked me if I had one.

Mr. Ferguson—And it was promptly forthcoming.

Mr. Doherty—It was forthcoming, and I have never got it back.

Mr. Doherty declared himself opposed to the proposed sale of 4.4 beer in Ontario, on three grounds: That the proposal was worse by far than a sane measure of Government control in that it would re-establish bars; that he had no option but to vote against the measure because his constituents had supported the Ontario Temperance Act by three to one in the plebiscite, and he felt that if he did otherwise he must resign his seat; and, thirdly, "because I believe the word of the Prime Minister of this Province should be maintained as sacred. I believe all classes of people have a right to look to the word of the Prime Minister as being absolutely final."

Mr. Ferguson—Hear, hear.

#### Fate of U.F.O.

L. W. Oke, U.F.O. member for East Lambton, said that it might be wondered at that he remained a U.F.O. member in the face of all the whirlwinds that had blown from Liberal, Conservative and Progressive quarters over the old Farmer alignment. But these whirlwinds, he said, while they were of no moment, did destroy half-good material, and only a good "oke" shingle on the U.F.O. roof like himself could stand against them.

Coming to the proposed change in the Ontario Temperance Act, Mr. Oke said that the people felt that the Prime Minister was not doing what he had said he would do. "Personally, I am going to vote against any measure presented to this House for stronger liquor. I feel that I wouldn't be doing my duty if I did not support the will of the people of East Lambton."

#### Opposed to Drury.

Mr. Oke said he always was more or less opposed to Mr. Drury and his ideas. He said he would deem it his duty to uphold or object to any measure in the House as he thought in the best interests of the people. "I do not feel that I would be doing that at this time if I went over with my friends the Progressives, the Conservatives or the Liberals, so I am going to stay a United Farmer, even if I stand alone. Even if I do stand alone, it won't be an unusual position for a farmer."

Mr. Oke said that they would be pleased to know that the member for Manitoulin (Hon. Beniah Bowman) still stood by the United Farmers' platform, and had not given himself over to the Progressive party. He said he had his permission to say that much. He claimed that lawyers had no right to receive \$300 a day for their services, and thought good common-sense laymen could administer departments as well as lawyers could.

#### Haney for 4.4 Beer.

W. S. Haney, Conservative member for West Lambton, upon resuming the debate at 8 o'clock, delved extensively into the history of temperance legislation in Ontario for the purpose, he explained, of showing the people of his constituency exactly where he stood and why he proposed to vote for the Government's 4.4 beer amendment.

He marked the decline in sentiment behind the Ontario Temperance Act from the time of Hon. W. E. Raney's attainment to office, stating that it was well known that "he was a prohibition fanatic." Mr. Raney, he said, at once began to incorporate into the enforcement of the O.T.A. methods that would have been suggestive to the principals of the Spanish Inquisition. Those methods, he said, became a challenge to every fair-minded citizen of the Province.

#### Blames It on Raney.

"I firmly believe," he said, "that my honorable friend the member from East Wellington (Mr. Raney) did more to ruin the Ontario Temperance Act in the estimation of reasonably minded men than any other person or consideration."

In describing what he considered to be the difficulties in the enforcement of the O.T.A., Mr. Haney said that it was the fact that the youth of the day had come to the attitude of thinking that it was "sporting" to know where to get a bottle of liquor and to carry a flask, and at social functions it was fairly common to see these young men passing their flasks of "rotten liquor," and then associating with the daughters of Ontario.

#### Sees Violations Everywhere.

The issuance of prescriptions by physicians he deemed to be an evil, and he went on to express the opinion that an island situated in the Pacific might well attempt to blot out every ounce of liquor, but Ontario, situated in the centre of North America, with liquor available from the East and West, was not in such a favorable position for the experiment.

Describing conditions on the border, he pictured the houseboats of the border waters, which, he said, were drinking dens, and, although they were perhaps not noticeable from the highways, their location could always be ascertained by the number of parked automobiles in the vicinity. He went on to discuss the problem of "short-circuiting" of export liquor, and speculated as to whether Hon. Jacques Bureau had refused the assistance that had been requested of him by the Ontario authorities in order that he might embarrass the Government.

#### "But on the Other Hand—"

"No human being on earth," Mr. Haney said, "could possibly enforce the strict letter of the law on the statute books by reason of the conditions I have pointed out. And despite all the criticism that has been levelled at this Government, I have never heard anybody say that the present Attorney-General has not honestly tried to enforce the O.T.A."

Mr. Haney had some suggestions for the Government, however, in its proposed step, among them the following: Restriction of the handling of its sale to the hands of born British subjects, so that the beverage might not be used as a blind; Government inspection as to purity; removal of that feature from the O.T.A., which he termed "a joke law," that the man who consumed his bottle of liquor should be fined \$10, and the man who kept his in his pocket \$200; discretionary powers for the Magistrates in O.T.A. cases; restoration of the principle that a man is innocent until proved guilty; and long jail sentences to the individual who sold liquor which, upon analysis, proved to be poisonous.

He believed the Government's amendment would suit every person in the Province except the extremists on either side.

#### For Agricultural Development.

After complimenting the Leader of the Liberal party on the way he had covered all matters of importance in his speech, E. P. Tellier (Liberal, North Essex) made a plea for scientific development of agriculture in Ontario. Mr. Tellier said that all should get back to the two-party system, and reminded the Progressives that the Liberals had an honest-to-goodness farmer as their leader—a man who wrote his briefs sitting on an elm stump on the

back of his farm. He also urged that taxation be reduced.

Mr. Tellier did not believe that bootlegging and "blind pigs" would be eliminated by 4.4 beer. The beer sold in the "blind pigs" was 9 per cent. beer, he said. Though he deferred discussion on this until the bill came down, he added that, speaking as an individual, and not as a party man, he was going to vote for the bill when it came before the House.

#### Rebates on Gas Tax.

While discussing the proposed tax on the sale of gasoline, D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey) drew from Premier Ferguson the information that farmers and fishing-boat owners who used gasoline would make an affidavit as to the amounts they used and send it to the Treasurer and obtain a rebate.