

BUDGET ON TUESDAY, DECLARES FERGUSON, AS DEBATE NEARS END

Wide Range of Subjects
Covered by Dozen Legis-
lators in House

MANY MAIDEN SPEECHES

An even dozen of Ontario's legislators, most of them new men, speaking for the first time, and attuning their expressed views to the sentiment of their respective ridings, carried the debate in the House another day nearer the end yesterday.

On adjournment at 11 o'clock last night Premier Ferguson said that the debate would wind up on Thursday, and that the Budget, the appearance of which had been expected this week, as a consequence would not be brought down until Tuesday next.

Nesbitt's Amendment.

Proceedings yesterday were marked by Russell Nesbitt's amendment to Hon. W. E. Raney's amendment of last week, aimed primarily at removing the "sting" in the Progressive Leader's motion, and expressing the Assembly's faith in the "safeguard" to all classes of the community "against the evils of intemperance" as provided for in the Government's liquor-control policy.

Conspicuous also were the inaugural speeches of young Farquhar Oliver, U.F.O. member for South Grey, and Charles G. Fletcher, Liberal representative for South Essex. Both young legislators made a distinct impression, and even Government followers were not sparing in approval of their premier pronouncements.

Karl Homuth, Independent Labor member for South Waterloo; did what was expected of him, and pleaded the cause of the "workingman's beer," declaring emphatically that Government control, the principle of which, he said would always have his support, would avail nothing unless there was some provision in the forthcoming act for supplying the laborer with his glass of beer without forcing him to purchase it at a Government shop.

Retort to Martin.

Opposition members ranged their discussion from the corn-borer and the Oriental peach moth to reviews of the temperance situation in Ontario from its earliest beginning, and to sharp and considerable retort to Rev. W. G. Martin, (Conservative, Brantford) for "unseemly references" during the course of his recent speech on the debate.

Government members, while fewer in number than the Opposition, lost no opportunity to vigorously pummel the Liberal and Progressive groups. On the whole the debate was clouded with election atmosphere, and "certain clergy," whose activity was the object of much Government criticism during the November-December campaign, were again made the target for "sizzling" comment from the Conservative side of the Chamber.

Homuth's Labor View.

Mr. Homuth, in his opening remarks, noted that he was the only member in the House elected as a Labor man. He felt that other Labor candidates would have been with him if they had stuck to a Government control policy. But, said he, Labor men had "accepted the endorsement of the prohibition party, and the two don't mix at all."

"You can't take the liquor question out of politics," said he. "It's in, and it's going to stay. Every member must take a stand one way or the other." As for his part, said he, he would maintain his attitude that Government control was a solution to the problem.

Denies Connivance.

Then he referred to his motion, discussed in the House recently, to urge Ottawa to cut the excise on spirits. "It was hinted," said he, "that, in moving that, I was in connivance with the Government. But that is absolutely untrue.

"I am prepared," he went on, "to support the Government on the Government control bill; I am prepared to support the Government on the other planks in the Conservative platform advocated at the election, and I am prepared to maintain them in office for the full Parliamentary term, so that the Government control bill can have every opportunity." His final words were drowned in applause from the Government benches.

Regrets Church in Politics.

Referring again to the election, he went on: "I regret that the Church, which should be too sacred to be mixed in politics, was brought into politics—at least one section of one certain Church—and every effort was used to elect prohibition candidates.

"Young people's protest meetings," held all over the Province in the election days, he termed "a sinister movement to defeat Government control supporters."

"The Government control measure," he went on, "is not going to be the success that we hope it to be unless it provides that beer is sold in such a way that the workingman can walk in and get his glass, or a bottle, instead of going to a store and getting a bottle or a case and having to have it in his home."

If no provision was made for the workingman to get his beer, he reiterated, the bill would not be a success. In this matter of "beer for the workingman" he felt that in Manitoba the act was a fallacy in that there was much hampering "red tape."

Dr. G. A. McQuibban (Liberal, Northeast Wellington) commended the Government's policy of distribution of free toxins for prevention and spread of disease, but felt that the Department of Health should enlarge on its policy of distribution of insulin in order that the cost to people with part-time pay, compelled to take it over a long period, would not be so great.

Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey rose to point out that the department was prepared to distribute free insulin under such circumstances. Dr. McQuibban replied that the person requiring it had to be poverty-stricken. In fact, he said, the printed requisition carried words to that effect. Dr. Godfrey inferred that Dr. McQuibban had misconstrued the meaning of the requisition.

On Temperance Question.

References to the "grey-haired old question of temperance" drew, for the speaker, the interest of the crowded galleries of the House. Dr. McQuibban said that during the election campaign the "outstanding virtue" of the Government-control policy had been its reported ability to "beat the bootlegger."

"We were told," he said, "that the cradle of the bootlegger was the O.T.A. Well, I'm pretty certain Mr. Bootlegger is going to be pretty comfortable in his new cradle." (Opposition applause.) There would be, he contended, just as much "cant and hypocrisy" under the new system as under the old. There would be just as much a back door to the Government shop as there was to the doctor's office under the O.T.A. The much-boasted "control" would vanish, he said, the moment the cork was pulled from a bottle.

"And it's foolish," he pointed out, "for this Government or any other Government to believe that it can prohibit or control the traffic as long as the making of the stuff is legal—as long as breweries are permitted to distill."

Nesbitt Deals With Hydro.

Russell Nesbitt (Bracondale-Toronto) opened his address with biting references to Hon. W. E. Raney's "uncalled-for attack" on the Anglican clergy, and dealt extensively with Hydro matters with a view to showing the competency of the Ferguson Administration.

"During the incumbency of the present Government," said he, "rural line construction by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission has been carried on in the Province from the Quebec boundary on the east to Windsor on the west, and Collingwood and Sparrow Lake on the north, to serve farms and hamlets. One thousand four hundred and forty-seven miles of line has been constructed to serve 16,388 consumers.

Quotes Figures.

"The total cost of this construction was \$3,125,760, of which the Government has paid \$1,461,509, being 50 per cent. of the total cost of rural primary and secondary line construction. In the year 1921 this payment by the Government of 50 per cent. of the cost of primary lines was instituted, but in 1924, 50 per cent. of the cost of secondary lines was added and made retroactive, to 1921.

"The future that Hydro has," said he, concluding his remarks on this topic, "is to look to the Conservative party for protection."

In concluding, Mr. Nesbitt moved his amendment to replace Mr. Raney's amendment. It was seconded by E. C. Graves (Conservative, St. Catharines) and read as follows:

Omission and Substitution.

"That all the words after the word 'that' in the second line of the amendment be omitted and the following be substituted therefor: 'This House assures your Honor that the proposed measure for improvement in the method of control and administration of the sale of liquor will receive its most earnest and thorough consideration, in order that it may advance the interests of true temperance and afford additional safeguards to all classes of the community against the evils of intemperance.'

Benefits to Agriculture.

Charles G. Fletcher (Liberal, South Essex), new member in the House, complained that the Speech from the Throne did not contain much fare for agriculturists, and thought that there should be a consideration of two principal means of benefiting agriculture, the basic industry of the Province. First was the application of scientific methods to agriculture; second, the taking of further steps toward the standardization of products and the finding of new markets.

Next he dealt with a problem particularly facing the agriculturists of Southwest Ontario: the work of the corn-borer. He felt that the Government should press its attack on this menace to the farmer. He also stressed the need of Government intervention, if possible, in the situation at Pelee Island, where, he said, sand-suckers are "slowly eating the island away."

Lake-Bottom Rights.

Premier Ferguson interrupted to explain that the great basic difficulty there, which different Governments had tried to overcome, was that a certain patent on "freehold rights at the bottom of the lake" prevented any interference from the Government, and the people who had invested in these "holdings" claimed the right to take what sand they wanted.

Mr. Raney was not certain that the case was not one for legality. The island, he stated, was being literally carried off for American use.

Refers to Liquor Question.

Referring to the liquor question, Mr. Fletcher stated there was no question but that the Government had secured a mandate from the people, but that this mandate did not meet with the expressed wishes of the public in the way a referendum or plebiscite would have done.

R. H. Kemp (Progressive, Lincoln) also regretted that there was not more mention of agricultural matters in the Speech. He reiterated his statements of last session that there was "more dishonesty in the handling of fruit in the City of Toronto than in the whole Niagara Peninsula."