

Hon. John S. Martin interjected that the Government realized the seriousness of the situation; that research work was going on at the Government Fruit Station at Vineland; but that, unfortunately, no spray could be found to kill the moth.

Next, referring to the liquor question, Mr. Kemp stated that during the campaign it was said that bootlegging would be killed by a restricting law, but now it seemed that bootleggers were to be done away with by the reduction of the price of liquor.

Government members loudly protested this statement.

Hon. James Lyons (Sault Ste. Marie) wanted to know if Mr. Kemp had ever told his constituency to vote for the O.T.A. because Government control would reduce the price of grapes.

Mr. Kemp vigorously denied this. E. C. Graves (St. Catharines) wondered if Mr. Kemp had ever made such a statement privately, if not publicly. Mr. Kemp declared that at no time had he made such a statement.

In conclusion, he promised that when the Government Control Bill was made law, he and his constituents would do all in their power to and the Government in giving it a chance to prove itself the "true temperance legislation" it had been named.

Upholds Redistribution Bill.

T. A. Thompson (Conservative, North Lanark, continuing the debate at the night sitting, upheld the Redistribution Bill of 1925 as "just and equitable" and ridiculed Liberal Leader Sinclair's statements to the contrary. He also took Mr. Sinclair to task for criticism of the Agricultural Inquiry Committee.

Mr. Thompson said that the actions of the Anglican and Roman Catholic clergy in the last election were quite in keeping with the "dignity and sanctity of their office," but he could not say as much for a class of clergy that opposed the Government and "sniped" from pulpits they had turned into "political dugouts."

Oliver's First Speech.

F. R. Oliver (U.F.O., South Grey), the youngest member of the Legislature, next took a hand in the debate. It was his maiden speech in the House, but the youth displayed no nervousness. In this gathering of his seniors, men aged in political experience, he proved himself in the matter of oratory an equal of any.

In his opening remarks he dissociated L. W. Oke, Lambton East, T. Farquhar, Manitoulin, and himself from the Progressive group in the House. The three of them constituted their own U.F.O. group, and for this trio he spoke.

The three, said he, would extend the hand of co-operation to any group in the House, irrespective of party, in any matter that met with their approval.

Discusses Rural Depopulation.

Agriculture was faced with the problem of rural depopulation. Governments had advocated immigration as a solution. But, said Mr. Oliver, the Europeans coming here took one look at the farms and then followed the boys and girls to the cities. Immigration, he declared, was not a basic solution. The real way to solve the problem was to improve agricultural conditions—make agriculture attractive.

He suggested remedies for agriculture's ills. First, co-operation in all its phases. He thought that the Government should study co-operative movements in countries where they were successful and make the information in the findings available to Ontario farmers. "We are only touching the fringe of co-operative enterprise in Ontario," he added.

He suggested that a committee from the Legislature should study the rural education systems in other countries and that Ontario should adopt the best of the successful systems.

Urges Cheaper Power.

Referring to Hydro matters, he thought that power should be made still cheaper for rural Ontario. Then came a brief reference to the liquor question. He did not believe that Government control would promote temperance, would raise the moral tone of citizenship, would do away with bootleggers. However, said he, if the Government could prove to him that the system was all it was claimed to be he would throw away his convictions and give it support. But he emphasized that he didn't think the Government could bring forward such proof.

Criticizes University Plan.

C. A. Robertson (Liberal, North Huron) criticized the Prime Minister's scheme of transferring first and second year university work to the secondary schools of the Province, on the ground that the system might prove a saving to the Province. It would not, he thought, be of any financial benefit to the small towns. He also criticized Mr. Ferguson's Township School Bill, and said that it should not be left "hanging over the heads" of the people, as it had been for the past three years. The people, he said, were entitled to know what was "intended."

Rural Ontario for Temperance.

W. G. Medd (Progressive, North Huron) referred at the outset of his remarks to the liquor question and reviewed the history of "the development of temperance and prohibition sentiment in Ontario." Rural Ontario, he declared, had always taken a stand for temperance, and still maintained such an attitude.

He touched on the educational work being done in schools, in the churches and in the homes to promote temperance, and he hoped that the Government in its legislation would do nothing to offset this work, or to stimulate any desire in the youth of the Province for strong drink.

When he concluded there was a moment of confusion as A. L. Shaver (Conservative, North Wentworth) and E. B. Miller (Liberal, East Elgin) both rose to speak. Mr. Miller, "begging pardon," took his seat, and Mr. Shaver continued.

Mr. Shaver promptly told the House he had yet to hear any constructive criticism from the mouths of the Opposition groups.

"You sit too far away," said Liberal Leader Sinclair.

Shaver Defends Government.

Mr. Shaver called the attention of the Labor member of the House to the Government's reductions in income and theatre-ticket taxes, saying they were ample indications that the Government had "the welfare of the masses at heart." He defended the Prime Minister's proposed policy of "carrying higher education" to the smaller centres, and said that Mr. Sinclair, in opposing the proposal, was only satisfying his own selfish motives.

Dealing with the "wet" question, Mr. Shaver flayed the "type of minister" who, in the last election, had made a "political arsenal" of his pulpit. He also advised Mr. Medd to go back farther in his search for prohibition data. "Why don't you go back to the Garden of Eden? They tried prohibition there, but it didn't work."

Mr. Shaver felt that every person should constitute himself a policeman under Government control, and lend every effort to enforce the act.

Queried by Miller.

"Is it any more becoming," asked E. Blake Miller (Liberal, East Elgin) "for a person to go out as a citizen and help enforce a Government-control act than it was to go out and help enforce the O.T.A. when it was law?"

"Having faith in the people of this Province, who voted half a million strong for Government control," said Mr. Shaver, "I would say 'Yes!' And any one who does not do it is not a citizen worthy of the name."

"Did the vote show up any more strongly, comparatively speaking," asked Mr. Miller, "than for the O.T.A.?"

"In 1924," said Mr. Shaver, "the

majority, if I remember, was about 38,000."

"Why don't you go back a little further?" giped the Opposition.

In carrying the debate further Mr. Miller regretted that no provision for old-age pensions had been made in the Speech from the Throne. He referred briefly to matters of Government policy; was critical of "road construction" in his riding, charging that workmen on a certain piece of highway had been told "their vote was worth their job."

Mr. Miller "went after" Rev. W. G. Martin for his debate speech taunts and reflections on "the prayers of the women of Norfolk." "Most unseemly," said Mr. Miller, amid loud "Oh's" from the Government benches.

Stands Up for O.T.A.

J. H. Mitchell (Liberal, Southwest Simcoe), concluding speaker in the day's session, spoke particularly of the liquor issue, taking his stand as a prohibitionist. "The Ontario Temperance Act," said he, "has worked wonders in my riding. I don't know where I could go there and get a glass of whiskey."

"I hear that there's whiskey sold in the city ridings. But nobody has offered to sell me any here. Other members see it here. But I suppose if you are out to find the booze you can, but I'm not hunting it—like other members, perhaps."

"If the bootlegger sells booze and it is damning the country," he went on, "as it is said it is, I don't see that there is any difference if the Government sells it."

Then he touched on remarks in the House about the activity of the clergy in the election. "The gentleman from Wentworth (A. L. Shaver, Conservative)," said he, "took great delight in ridiculing the clergy, and I think that it is uncalled for."

Praises Clergymen.

"The clergymen who took part in the election were just as courageous as the men who ridicule them here. I invite the honorable member to come to my riding, and there I'll introduce him to clergymen. He can discuss Government control, or the Ontario Temperance Act, and I am certain that they can surely hold their own."

Mr. Shaver protested that he did not refer to the clergy generally. "I said," he declared, "certain ministers of the Gospel, so-called, in certain churches."

"I suppose," retorted Mr. Mitchell, "you didn't refer to the clergy members of this House."

"The clergy," he added, "are our best assets, and it is not becoming to make a feeling of discontent against the clergy."

W. A. Baird (Conservative, Toronto High Park) then moved the adjournment of the debate, and the House rose at 11 p.m.

Bill Respecting Widows' Rights.

Prior to the continuation of the debate, J. G. Lethbridge, Progressive member for West Middlesex, introduced, with the consent of the House, a bill respecting the rights of widows in the estates of their deceased husbands. This measure, in slightly altered form, was brought down at the 1926 session by Harold Fisher, former Liberal member for East Ottawa, but was not pressed, notwithstanding the fact that the Government extended considerable sympathy to its aims. Yesterday Hon. W. E. Raney suggested that the bill be sent to the Statutes Revision Commission for consideration, but Premier Ferguson demurred, although he was prepared, he said, to allow it to be discussed freely on the floor of the House.

The Prime Minister got first reading to a bill to amend the Psychiatric Hospitals Act. He said it merely involved a series of minor amendments, and had not arisen out of recent complaints regarding the administration of these institutions.

Aims at Reforestation.

Hon. William Finlayson brought down what is known as the Forestry Act—a measure aiming at reforestation in Ontario on a general scale. He will speak to the bill at its second reading. Another Government measure was that introduced by Hon. Forbes Godfrey, seeking to amend the Athletic Commissions Act.