

Wednesday, March 2nd

"Where was that sort of a speech made?" interrupted Attorney-General Price, in the absence of Premier Ferguson.

"That kind of a speech was made at Cochrane, among other places," returned Mr. Belanger, who attributed such statements to the Prime Minister, among others.

Reports Baffle Him.

The Legislature was entitled to know beforehand, submitted Mr. Belanger, where the Government intended to spend the \$5,000,000 appropriation. It was all right for the Government to say that it "could be got from the reports," but, said Mr. Belanger, he had looked carefully through the public accounts, and he had found little evidence of the expenditure. He referred, however, to one item of \$3,736,000, under Northern and Northwestern Development, which, he said, was made up of "small invoices for this and for that, but for what purpose we are at a loss to know."

Going further on what he had to say regarding "undue pressure" in the last election, Mr. Belanger said that, from Sault Ste. Marie to Ottawa, and from Cobalt to Moonbeam, road-building staffs had been mobilized for election purposes. And civil servants who had left their employment, if not their salaries, were canvassing, he said, in the interests of the Conservative party.

Should Keep Roads Open.

Mayor Balharrie of Ottawa, while agreeing that those who used the roads should pay for them, considered it very unfair that his city should be forced to pay gasoline tax for its truck and automobile equipment, when the suburban roads were closed to traffic for about four months of each year. He thought that the Government should keep the roads open during the winter months or give the cities a rebate in the tax on gasoline used by civic services.

In discussing the question generally, Mr. Henry reiterated the hope that the Government, in the near future, might be able to devise a scheme whereby truckers and freight haulers, in direct competition with the railways, would be compelled to meet a fair share of the cost of road maintenance in the Province.

Other speakers of the deputation were: Mayor Stevens, Niagara Falls; City Engineer W. G. Near, London; Ald. H. Collins, Belleville; Mayor Parker, Woodstock; Mayor Sleman, Brantford; Mayor McKay, Galt; Ald. Greb, Kitchener, and Harry Mahoney, Guelph. Aurora, Kingston and Owen Sound were also represented at the conference.