

Friday, March 4th

### Loss to Ontario's Well-Being.

Dealing with what he termed "matters of public welfare," W. G. Robertson, Liberal member for Northumberland, said that, while the Government's system of liquor control might make for a half-yearly revenue of \$3,500,000, it would, in the long run, mean a great loss to the well-being of Ontario. He considered the Ontario Temperance Act the finest bit of temperance legislation on the statute books, and inferred that, had the Liberal party had the administering of the measure in its charge, there would have been no "fear of bootleggers," as indicated on the part of the Ferguson Government in its election talk.

Mr. Robertson laid considerable stress on Premier Ferguson's township school board proposal, declaring that rural sympathy had not yet outgrown the "little red schoolhouse" stage; that the proposal, he was afraid, would lead to too much centralization; and expressing the hope that the Prime Minister would take "plenty of time" before passing in a legislative way on the scheme.

F. G. Sandy (Progressive, South Victoria) extolled the record of the former Drury Administration, declaring that the present "satisfactory financial standing" of Ontario was due to "the wise investments" of that Government.

Referring to Hydro, and the question of rural extension, Mr. Sandy complained that only 3 per cent. of Ontario farmers were using power at the present time. Power, he said, was a natural resource, and should be available to farmers as cheaply as possible. He favored an 80 per cent. bonus to rural lines and an equalized rate. Such an expenditure would be more to the point, he contended, than spending money on the beautification of public grounds and buildings.

In respect of the liquor question, he charged that the Government, in introducing Government control, had "sacrificed the possibility of prohibition for many years to come." He did not think that any end to be gained by selling intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes was "an end worth striving for."

Rev. A. C. Calder (Conservative, West Kent) continued the debate. After he had spoken fifteen minutes paying tribute to the late R. L. Brackin, and extending felicitations to new appointees, the House adjourned for the dinner interim.

When he resumed the debate in the evening session, there were but eighteen of his fellow Tories in their seats to hear him, while the Opposition numbered twenty-two. By 9.15, when Mr. Calder concluded, six more Government members had entered, while the Opposition group still stood at twenty-two.

### Quotes Rhymsters.

In the hour and a quarter, Mr. Calder proved himself to be a student of the rhymsters by quoting from poetical works. He turned back the pages of history to Napoleon's time to find a situation with which he might compare the Opposition "struggling on." And, in conclusion, when he wanted to speak of all Ontario he spoke of the district from "the thousand islands basking in the moonlight" to "the wild cataracts leaping in the Northland."

With studied sarcasm he pictured the Opposition members in the House. "Your eyeballs are turned in too much," he told them. "Turn them out and look across here at the benefactors of Ontario."

### Waxes Sarcastic.

And again, in a sarcastic vein, he turned his guns on Hon. Mr. Raney. He knew, said he, that when he and Mr. Raney knew each other better "they might" spend many happy hours together. And I shall sit," he went on, "as a humble listener at his feet, while pearls of wisdom fall from his mouth."

Then he spoke of Mr. Raney's references in the House to Canon Cody. This was not as it should be, he felt. "I hope," he went on, "that as the honorable member proceeds along the avenue of increasing renown along which he is going, he will be asked to give an address before the Council of the great assembly known as the League of Nations. If he will not think I am impudent, I would suggest that the subject he might select will be 'How Long Will It Take a Mosquito to Kill a Lion?'"

W. A. Anderson (Liberal, Peterboro' County) spoke briefly of the Government's new reforestation scheme, and the effect he thought it would have on the northern part of his riding. While, he said, it appeared to be a commendable project, he suggested that the Government would be wise to give it lengthy consideration before making it operative.

### Advocates Vote on Bill.

Mr. Anderson was not agreed that Government control would make for "better temperance." He thought the Government's wisest move would be to bring in "the best bill they could," and submit it to the electors.

So far as rural Ontario was concerned, said Mr. Anderson, the Government's greatest problem lay in the bringing of agricultural education to the secondary schools. No one, he said, deplored the exodus of farm youth to the cities more than he did; and only efforts on the part of the Government to educate that youth to remain at home—at least

in satisfactory numbers—could the objective be achieved.

T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin) launched into a defense of the Drury Administration, contending that during its four years of office not once was a vote of expenditure challenged by the Opposition. "As a consequence," said he, "I can't see why the present Government members shout on the hustings and in the House here about the Drury Administration's extravagance."

In respect of the Provincial highways system, Mr. Slack held that the Government should bear the whole cost entailed. He thought if the Government relieved the rural municipalities of their payments to the highways, the municipalities could "pretty well take care of" the much-needed back concessions.

### Pleads for Seed.

Mr. Slack registered a strong plea for Government aid to farmers in the way of seed. He said there were thousands of cases in the Province of young farmers who were in distress, and could not get from the banks the assistance they needed. He thought that some provision for aid should be made in the Budget, and entreated the Ministry to take the suggestion into its immediate consideration.

Extension of the terms of office of Municipal Councils was also advocated by Mr. Slack as a means of saving municipalities a lot of expense, and making for better Councils. He hoped to see the day, he said, when a bill embodying this extension would be introduced in the Legislature.

Mr. Slack charged that Premier Ferguson had consistently followed a policy of "getting rid" of the Ontario Temperance Act. "And now that he has his chance," said Mr. Slack, "he intends to obliterate it forever."

### Asks Adjournment.

A. A. Colquhoun (Liberal, South Perth) asked permission at 11.07 p.m. to adjourn the debate.

"Oh, no," replied Premier Ferguson. "It is agreed that all the members wishing to speak on the debate shall do so tonight, except the member for South Ontario (Mr. Sinclair), the member for Prince Edward (Mr. Raney) and myself. That is one of the little vagaries to which new members will soon become accustomed."

Mr. Colquhoun dealt briefly and generally with Provincial questions, and declared himself strongly against the sale of malt liquors as a beverage.

### Provincial Abattoirs.

T. Farquhar (U.F.O., Manitoulin) urged the establishment of Provincial abattoirs to take care of meats until such time as they could be marketed advantageously, and asked for further protection to the

Manitoulin sheep and cattle raising industry from the wolves. Increased bounty or organized drives would, in his opinion, do much to wipe out the wolf menace.

W. G. Weichel (Conservative, North Waterloo) concluded the night's oratory, and the House adjourned at 12.15 a.m.