

ORATOR FROM NORTH PAINTS BLUE PICTURE OF ONTARIO'S STATE

**Sturgeon Falls Member
Suggests Department
of Colonization,
With Bonus for Settlers**

HYDRO EXTENSION CONSIDERED SLOW

There was some new wheat and a lot of old straw threshed in the Budget debate in the Legislature yesterday. Speakers got away to an early start in the afternoon, and kept the machinery running until sharp 12 o'clock midnight, when E. Blake Miller, Liberal, East Elgin, after half an hour's speech, secured the adjournment of the debate until Tuesday next, in spite of a mild protest from Premier Ferguson that the House should not rise until he had finished.

F. G. Sandy, Progressive, South Victoria; Christopher Gardiner, Progressive, East Kent, and E. Blake Miller, Liberal, East Elgin, made their second bow to the House in a speaking role since the present session opened. Among the first-time performers of the session were: T. J. Mahoney, Conservative, South Wentworth; Theodore Legault, Liberal, Sturgeon Falls; Rev. A. C. Calder, Conservative, West Kent, and H. H. Ball, Conservative, Toronto (Eglinton), whose offering, by the way, was his maiden one.

Many Men, Many Minds.

From Mr. Mahoney the House had a lot of interesting information about native wine growing. Mr. Legault, who is dubbed in some quarters as "the silver-tongued orator from the North," painted a "blue-ruin" picture of present-day conditions, which contrasted sharply with his smiling countenance. Mr. Gardiner deplored the tardiness with which the Government is getting Hydro to the actual farmer. Mr. Calder made an eloquent speech, in which he said his judgment in enlisting under the Ferguson banner last election had been amply justified. Mr. Colquhoun charged liquor with a lot of "black marks." Mr. Sandy feared for the fate of Premier Ferguson's townships school bill, and Mr. Ball gave more publicity to the Volstead Act than has been heard heretofore this session in arguing the merits of the Liquor Control Act.

Opposes 100 Per Cent.

Thomas J. Mahoney (Conservative, South Wentworth) defended the Government's attitude toward old-age pensions and its policy of 80 per cent. payment toward Provincial Highways construction. One hundred per cent. payment of highways, as advocated in the Miller-Proulx amendment now before the House, would mean, in his opinion, that counties, assured that the highways would come to them free of cost, would "lay back and do no work at all." He further said that such an arrangement would mean that the Government would be swamped with petitions for roads.

Mr. Mahoney suggested that the jurisdiction of the Victoria Parks Commission at Niagara Falls be extended from Niagara to the end of the lake, in order to make possible a highway which would be as great a tourist-attracting asset in 20 years as the present road along the river.

Pathetic Picture.

Theodore Legault (Liberal, Sturgeon Falls) painted a pathetic picture of conditions in Ontario as he saw them. So far as population is concerned, he declared, this Province was practically

at a standstill. Business was shrinking, farms dwindling in size, half the workmen working for starvation wages. Despite the vast natural resources of the Province, Ontario had to enter the liquor business to round out its revenues.

The Government, he complained, was not as deeply interested in the welfare of the Northern Ontario settlers as it should be.

"We get about \$5,000,000 a year out of timber and turn it over for settlement," retorted Hon. William Finlayson.

Settlers were of more importance to the Province than automobile tourists, Mr. Legault said, urging that more of the money spent on Northern Ontario highways should have gone for the construction of settlers' roads.

"Does the honorable member know," questioned Hon. William Finlayson, "that of the \$5,000,000 spent on Northern roads more went for settlers' roads than for highways?"

Mr. Legault—If I understand it—
Mr. Finlayson—That is the trouble. You don't understand it.

Bonus for Settlers.

For relief Mr. Legault suggested a Department of Colonization with Mr. Finlayson at its head, and that the settlers be offered a bonus—\$15 to clear their land and \$15 to put it under the plow per acre.

Christopher Gardiner (Progressive, East Kent) suggested that perhaps the Government was making a mistake in sending immigrants to Northern Ontario, where it was so difficult to make a living out of farming. He thought that the Government might finance settlers on farms in Western Ontario.

More Liquor in Future.

Mr. Gardiner believed that the Liquor Control Act should be given a fair trial, but it looked to him as though conditions were getting worse. "Liquor creates an appetite for itself," he said, "and the more sold now the more will be sold in the future."

On the matter of supplying Hydro power to the rural sections of the Province he declared that the Government's policy appeared to be that the policy could not be changed—"Hands off the Hydro." Of the 5 per cent. of the total power reported to be going to the rural sections, only 1 per cent., he said, actually reached farmers. The rest went to the small municipalities. "Slow business," he called it, estimating that it would be half a century before the distribution of Hydro to farmers would become general.

French-Canadian Bulwark.

Rev. A. C. Calder (Conservative, West Kent) declared that the French-Canadians of the Province were a valuable asset in that as landed proprietors they were "bulwarks against Bolshevism or any other 'ism' or 'spasm' which threatened our social life" and expressed the opinion that when the people of the Province fully understood the principle of the abolition of Regulation 17 they would be fully in accord with the policy of the Government.

A. A. Colquhoun (Liberal, South Perth) expressed the opinion that if the Government saw fit to continue its present policy of making the counties pay 20 per cent. of the cost of county roads it might, as an alternative, raise its grant for township roads to 50 per cent. In referring to the Liquor Control Act, Mr. Colquhoun suggested that a large percentage of the indigent poor had been placed in that position by indulgence in liquor.

Kari Homuth (Conservative, South Waterloo)—Surely my honorable friend does not mean to imply that the indigent old people of this Province are forced to go to houses of refuge because of indulgence in liquor?

"About 85 Per Cent."

Mr. Colquhoun—Not in every case, but a large percentage—about 85 per cent.

Mr. Homuth was incredulous. "Do you want to make this House believe that 85 per cent. of the indigent poor of this Province are in that position because of liquor?" he asked.

Mr. Colquhoun—Eighty-five per cent of pauperism has been caused by liquor yes.

Before Mr. Homuth could say anything more he was reminded by Liberal Leader Sinclair that he was not sitting in his own seat, and therefore could not speak. Mr. Homuth sank back into the chair, muttering (but not loud enough, for the whole House to hear) "Pooh, pooh."

F. G. Sandy (Progressive, South Victoria) spoke at some length on the question of co-operative marketing and what it meant to the farmer in the way of benefits, deploring the fact that certain Toronto newspapers seemed to be going out of their way to educate the public to steer clear of co-operative marketing. He thought their attitude "very unfair."

"Hydro at Reasonable Rate."

Mr. Sandy urged the Government to bring in compulsory automobile insurance. Proceeding, he said: "Put Hydro out to the farms at a price they can afford to pay for it." Many of the mistresses of homes in the country were girls just out of normal school, who were entitled to the best in the way of living—furthermore, expected it—but who couldn't be expected to stay there unless things were made brighter and more up-to-date. "Give those homes Hydro at a reasonable rate," said Mr. Sandy, "and the Government will go a long way toward relieving an unfortunate situation."

H. H. Ball (Conservative, Toronto-Eglinton), in his maiden speech, paid tribute to the Leader of his party.

Mr. Ball made reference to the Liquor Control Act and alcohol generally from a new angle.

"His Own Little Still."

Quoting an article to show that the human system needed alcohol and that there was machinery in the system to provide it, Mr. Ball said: "Every human is endowed with his own little still. Those whose still is not working properly should have recourse to a little stimulant from outside."

E. Blake Miller (Liberal, East Elgin) said the only way to measure the success or failure of the Liquor Control Act was by its gross results, and one of the results was the reappearance of

the "golden cures," and "Keeley Institutes for drunkenness." These institutions had disappeared following the introduction of the Ontario Temperance Act, he said. Another result of the Liquor Control Act, Mr. Miller said, was the filled jails. "You have very nearly got to book your reservations in advance to get into them," he said.

Mr. Miller declared that the Northern Development Board had two purposes: the first to give relief and encouragement to the people of the North country, and the other to create a "Tory rampart" in Northern Ontario. "Irresponsible collection and expenditure of money will bring its reward," he said. "No democratic people can be permanently corrupted without resenting it."