

Scores Farm Speculators.

F. G. Sandy (Progressive, South Victoria) recalled the Progressive Party's tour of Northern Ontario last year. One vivid impression he had brought home from that trip was the need for adoption by the Government—if it was to make a success of its transfer to settlers from the Haliburton wastes to the clay belt of the North—of more modern farming methods than were being used at the present time. Mr. Sandy wondered if it were not necessary to "break" certain sections of land for the settlers, and to put in drainage. Another thing he advised the Government to do in this settling of the North was tell people who were holding property solely for speculation to "get out and stay out."

In reviving what he termed "the old question of farm economics," Mr. Sandy asked if it would not be advisable to place some of the people who were being transferred to the North on some of the farms in Southern Ontario that could be purchased for a song. He disagreed with Mr. Lyons that industries should be bonused at the expense of the farmers.

Mr. Lyons—Do you approve of the people of the Province bonusing rural Hydro lines?

Mr. Sandy—I don't admit that we are being bonused.

Mr. Lyons—That doesn't make it any the less effective.

Mr. Sandy—It's just a matter of giving the farmer a fairly equal rate. This matter of a bonus is not a bonus at all.

The South Victoria member argued strongly that the department should give the people some lead on agricultural questions. He spoke of hog-grading, and the "packing industry combine," contending that the department should lead action against the combine. Revolutionary things, he stated, were being done in both Australia and the United States. Ontario could, he believed, do something just as easily.

On the subject of Hydro development, Mr. Sandy maintained that the House should face the fact of rural and urban differences. True, there was a 50 per cent. bonus for rural distribution, but that had been made to equalize the situation. "And if," said he, "after the 50 per cent. is given, the rural population pays twice as much, a large amount should be given. In fact," he added, "we had a resolution for 80 per cent. which was never discussed in this House."

Bootleggers Still Active.

On the liquor question, Mr. Sandy again backed the O.T.A. against the L.C.A. The Government had promised, when it brought in its control act, to drive the bootleggers out of the country. "But the homebrewers and the bootleggers are still with us," said Mr. Sandy.

Mr. Ferguson pointed out that homebrew permits came from Ottawa.

Mr. Sandy went on to show how the liquor interests were flourishing in Ontario. If, said he, those who sponsored the L.C.A. had frankly admitted that they were going into the liquor business, and were going to boost the liquor interests, they might have had his respect. But, he declared, they had hailed the L.C.A. as a "temperance measure," which it certainly was not.

He recalled that Mr. Ferguson had recently said to Mr. Sinclair in the House: "Tell us frankly, don't you think you have a pretty good Government?"

"If," said Mr. Sandy, "I was a brewer or a distiller, I'd say 'Yes. You have certainly opened the doors.'"

When Mr. Sandy resumed his address after the dinner adjournment his audience had shrunk to 16 Government members, 8 Liberals and 7 Progressives.

Liquor Hurts Business.

He continued with his remarks on the liquor situation, and quoted from reports to show that jails, prisons and reformatories had been filled because of Government sale of liquor. Moreover, said he, the liquor sale affected the commercial welfare of the Province. A grocer, a friend of his, had told him that the week after the L.C.A. had come into force his business had dropped off \$75 and that the average had never increased.

He recalled that Sir George Foster had attributed the prosperity in the United States in a large measure to the prohibition law. Then he quoted reports of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada at their 1928 Assemblies which had pictured the evil effects of Government sale of liquor. Moreover, a friend of

his in the Salvation Army had told him that since the L.C.A. had come into effect the Army "was having to deal with a better class of young people who wouldn't go into the dives in other days."

Ninety Per Cent. Liquor Breaths.

And another friend of his who lived on the Hamilton Highway, and who had occasion many times to assist people in automobile accidents, had told him that he had smelt liquor off 90 per cent. of those people.

Mr. Sandy stated that the Attorney-General had told Provincial officers "to go home with first offenders instead of arresting them," and there was talk of starting a school for Provincial Police to train them in taking care of unfortunates.

In fact, said he, it seemed that the Government wanted to put on the soft pedal and said: "Don't prosecute too much, or there'll be too many convictions when the statistics are revealed at the next Provincial election."

He referred to the Brien affair at Kitchener and said: "I can't see why the Attorney-General just gives his views. The fair thing would be to have an investigation where the man accused can defend himself."

Liquor a Drug.

Mr. Ferguson suggested that Mr. Sandy, who had referred to the O.T.A. which operated for ten years; give the L.C.A. half that time before he judge it. The member from South Victoria made it plain that he objected to any sale of liquor for beverage purposes, and thought that it should be treated as a drug. He referred to the liquor sale as "a parasite on the business and morals of the country."

P. W. Pearson (Progressive, North Victoria) took the Government to task on the liquor situation. Backing up his statements by figures culled from financial publications and Government reports, he showed how the liquor business burst into mushroom growth under the L.C.A. Nineteen millions of dollars had been invested in breweries and distilleries suddenly. In 1926 there were twenty-four breweries in Ontario, then not so long afterward, under the L.C.A., this had increased to thirty-three. In all Canada there was only an increase of ten breweries, and nine of these were in this Province. And now the number has grown to thirty-seven.

"Thinks 37 Sufficient."

"And," he added, and drew laughter from his fellow-Liberals, "I see by the report of the Commission that it believes the thirty-seven will be sufficient to supply our needs."

He emphasized that the production of whiskey and beer and the importation of wines had doubled, and yet the L.C.A. was supposed to be a temperance measure. And, said he of the Government: "They find that the women are drinking too much punch and strong liquor, so they take the tax off wine and sell it in smaller quantities. You will see the sale of wine increased in tremendous quantities."

There were, said he, a triumvirate of rejoicers under the L.C.A., and these were in order of their rejoicing the brewer, the distiller and the retail bootlegger.

Why Rates Are Raised.

How, said he, did the sale of liquor affect the pocketbooks of the people of the Province? Well, he could tell how he was affected. The insurance rates on his automobile had been raised from \$17 to \$29. And why? At least some authorities stated that the automobile insurance companies were raising their rates because of increased crashes on the highways and this could be attributed to the drinking of liquor.

Mr. Pearson offered the Prime Minister three suggestions for improvement in the administration and enforcement of the Liquor Control Act: He said that the Legislature should pass a resolution calling on the Dominion Government to refuse clearance papers to all liquors on export "to a friendly country under prohibitive law." He said that the Ontario Government should immediately test in the courts the question of whether it or the Federal Government had control over manufacture of liquor. He said that the liquor stores should stop selling to bootleggers.

Mr. Pearson claimed that the jails were becoming "jammed to the doors" under the act. He claimed that the Government had to find some way of punishing offenders without taking from their families the earning power of the former. "If the Government is bound to sell them liquor," he stressed, "it will have to find some way of caring for them."

J. G. Taylor, Progressive member for

North Grey, thought the Prime Minister had taken the proper step in rescinding the banquet wine permit granted to the Boston Artillerymen by the Liquor Board Chairman. But the Premier had said he would interfere again under similar circumstances—a suggestion, claimed Mr. Taylor, that further interference would be necessary. "If a board paid \$40,000 a year," he said, "isn't capable of administering the act they should be asked for their resignations, and the Government should put people in their places who could run it without getting the Government into difficulties."

Mr. Taylor criticized the Government for its taxation of motorists and its methods of collecting the gas tax. He hazarded the opinion that costs of collecting the amusement tax were not as great as of those connected with "getting in" the gas revenue.

Mr. Taylor referred at some length to the Bruce County power situation. Being a consumer of Foshay power, he had some knowledge of what he was talking about. Bruce people were Hydro at heart, he stated, but in certain sections of the county advantage had been taken of peculiar local conditions.

Favors Lower Power.

Hydro, he claimed, was not especially anxious for development of small-scale powers, such as the Foshay people had undertaken. Right now, he said, the Foshay interests were developing plans which, when completed, would mean that an area would be served with power that Hydro would not have been able to serve in twenty-five years. Mr. Taylor favored delivery of power on a flat rate, or, at least, at a substantially lowered figure.

Mr. Taylor concluded his address at 11 p.m., and the House then rose.