

LEGISLATURE DEBATE CONTINUES UNTIL 12.45 FOR TUESDAY WIND-UP

**Wide Range of Topics,
From Needs of Northern
Ontario and Its Labor
Situation, to Plea for
Seasonable Tariff on
Vegetables and Fruits
Against U.S. Products**

MOTION TO ADJOURN REFUSED LIBERAL

The debate drags on.

Hon. George S. Henry, who is leading the Government in the absence of Premier Ferguson, pushed the House argument on to 12.45 o'clock this morning in an effort to clear the decks for a wind-up on Tuesday next and consideration on Wednesday of the supplementary estimates. It was the latest sitting of session to date.

J. A. Robb (Conservative, Algoma), P. W. Pearson (Liberal, North York), Leopold Macaulay (Conservative, South York), Charles G. Fletcher (Liberal, South Essex), George Shields (Conservative, Woodbine), T. Legault (Liberal, Sturgeon Falls), T. M. Costello (Conservative, South Renfrew) and W. G. Robertson (Liberal, Northumberland) "strutted their stuff" to the House, in the order named, yesterday, wandering all over the map of praise, criticism, suggestion and charges, and covering practically every field of endeavor in which any Government could possibly be interested. The day was a purely Liberal vs. Government affair, with the apparently "talked out" Progressive group failing to contribute a volunteer to the march-past of back-benchers.

Seasonal Tariff.

From Messrs. Robb, Fletcher and Macaulay the House had, however, three good speeches, with the first-named member's comprehensive review of Northern Ontario's conditions and its needs providing, perhaps, one of the highlights of the session to date. Mr. Fletcher spoke chiefly of the farming situation in his South Essex Riding, and struck a new chord in the House by launching, in that connection, an earnest appeal for some seasonal tariff under which early vegetables and fruits might be able to compete successfully against imported American products. Mr. Macaulay, always capable of handing out a surprise, threw the weight of his argument in favor of the Attorney-General's Department, and the methods, never publicly advertised, by which that department is protecting the people's savings against unscrupulous investors.

Mr. Costello urged upon the Government the necessity of appointing more game wardens, and the wolf menace was to be combated, and such reputed game preserves as Algonquin Park were to be lifted out of the rut of "deer butcher shops" into which they had fallen. Mr. Robertson pleaded the cause of dentistry, expressing the hope that part of the Ontario Research Foundation's program would be devoted to the study of pyorrhoea and other diseases.

The day's debate was not without its "fighting" moments. Mr. Pearson crossed daggers with Mr. Henry over a public accounts item, and tempers for a minute or two frayed to near breaking point. Mr. Legault and Mr. Finlayson argued warmly over the labor situation in the Spruce Falls Pulp and Paper Company plant at Kapuskasing, the Lake Nipissing flood situation, and on one or two points in connection with timber cutting.

Sinclair-Henry Clash.

And in the last half-hour of the night Liberal Leader Sinclair clashed heatedly with Mr. Henry over whether Mr. Robertson, who at 11.30 moved the adjournment, should finish or continue on Tuesday. "Go on and talk for a couple of hours," shouted Mr. Sinclair when Mr. Henry declared the debate would proceed.

But the refreshing "breeze" of the six-hour talkfest was the speech of Mr. Shields, something entirely original and entirely unparalleled in the history of this or probably any other House. Mr. Shields, in his own words, certainly "woke the House up from a sound sleep." Flitting from subject to subject like a busy little bee, now prodding, now cajoling, now placating, and now soothing, he gave the crowded galleries at his appearance "a very pleasant time, thank you."

Says Liberals Asleep.

In referring to the Liberal amendment to the Budget, J. M. Robb (Conservative, Algoma) said: "The fellows behind it are asleep." The people, he said, had already expressed their opinion as to whether the Ferguson Government had given good administration.

Mr. Robb gave special attention to the recent speech of Farquhar Oliver, U.F.O. member for North Grey, stating that the latter's reasoning on Hydro was unsound, and his flat rate cry mere "class legislation."

Mr. Robb suggested, when dealing with reforestation, that the Lands and Forests Department undertake an experiment in a township where it should designate a type of tree and then burn off the slash. This would show the public the cost of such an enterprise. He said he, reforestation was not profitable, it was not practical. He agreed that the Minister had a real problem in trying to perpetuate the forest growth in the Province.

\$250,000 to \$7,000,000.

Mr. Robb analyzed the system of planting trees to show that it would cost \$250,000 to "plant a township." But this would eventually develop into a value of \$7,000,000. He spoke at length in praise of Ontario's methods of forest fire protection, describing the various branches of that service, and particularly the "ground system," which includes tower lookouts and telephone lines.

Referring to the settling of New Ontario, Mr. Robb said: "If I had my life to live over again I'd do what I did a quarter of a century ago, and go into that North country."

Picturing the activity of wolves in the North country, their preying on sheep, Mr. Robb told the Government that there was a real demand, at least in Algoma, that the wolf bounty be increased.

On the subject of loans to settlers, Mr. Robb urged Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, to give "just a little wider interpretation to the word 'settler.'" Mr. Robb thought that the man who operated a small saw mill that catered to farmers, and the man who spent part of each year "in the bush" should be given some consideration as 'settlers.'" He also urged Hon. John S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture, to impress the Agricultural Board to show a little leniency toward the settlers who, after three crop failures, were unable to meet the regulations of the board.

Liquor a Social Problem.

Mr. Robb spoke but briefly on the liquor situation. Declaring that it involved a social problem, he stated that he didn't care if people drank three times as much liquor as formerly. What he was interested in was whether social conditions deteriorated, and he hoped that there would never be a return "to the conditions that existed under the O.T.A."

P. W. Pearson (Liberal, North York) ridiculed the Government's alleged policy of spending all it could get and then looking for more revenue. The North York member referred to Public Accounts and an item of a grant to a Conservative Association in his riding. Hon. George S. Henry, who was leading the Government, immediately protested the reference, saying the matter was now before a committee of the House for investigation, and that it should not be discussed.

Mr. Macaulay, the next speaker, told the House that there was nothing new in Mr. Pearson's speech. In fact, he said, "the white-haired member" was still sticking to party tactics, and was trying to find fault with the Government when no fault was to be found. So, said Mr. Macaulay, "there was no need of paying attention to Mr. Pearson's 'labored appeal.'"

Mr. Macaulay then came to his subject of brokerage operations in Ontario. He foresaw that in the development of Ontario, "speculation" on the market was to be more pronounced. He referred to the efforts of Governments to curb certain brokerage operations under "blue sky legislation." He didn't think that the Dominion authorities were co-operating with the Provinces in such laws.

Then he referred to possible "abuses" in the brokerage business.

"Unless something is wrong," he said, "a broker who buys and sells on commission for his customer should never go bankrupt."

Customers "Hold the Bag."

"If," he said, "brokers are using their customers' shares and capital to finance their own private ventures, that is something they shouldn't do, and which the exchange should regulate and prohibit." A seat on the exchange was worth \$200,000, he said. Other brokers had a lien on that seat in that if the firm went bankrupt they would take the money for their claims out of the value of the seat. "So," said Mr. Macaulay, "the value of the seat is eaten up by brokers, and the customers are left holding the bag."

Short-selling, he said, might also be another abuse in the brokerage business. Legitimate short-selling, he said, was an important and valuable factor. But when short-selling was made the subject of just juggling figures on the books, that was entirely a different matter.

Mr. Macaulay wanted to compliment Attorney-General Price for his activity in protecting the public in safeguarding conditions. Mr. Macaulay believed that the stock market was something like the newsprint industry, in that the Government should give leadership, but the parties in the business should manage the details.

"We Are on Guard."

He said he was not advocating harsh laws, but he wanted the House and the people of the Province "to let it be known to the brokers that we are on guard, and if there are abuses we will have to step in and rectify them."

He declared that the business of reputable brokers depended on good-will, "so that one failure of a firm in ten days does them more harm than all the criticism in the Legislature."

"But," he said, "if the Standard Exchange was told by the Government that we look to them, they would check up the situation and clean it up." He hoped that there would be some system whereby in both exchanges there would be periodic reports to show that the members are solvent, and keep solvent.

Not Political Problem.

Charles G. Fletcher (Liberal, South Essex) spoke at some length on agricultural conditions, contending that the farm problem was not a political one, and that the speeches in the House of Foster Moffat and A. H. Acres, both Conservative members, indicated that quite well. These speeches, he inferred, had revealed a frank, fearless criticism of Government policy, and the fact that all was not well with the farmer today.

Speaking of agricultural problems in Western Ontario and of his own riding in particular, Mr. Fletcher drew applause from the Government benches when he expressed himself in favor of a seasonal tariff on early vegetables and fruits.

"I don't hear much support from my friends," said Hon. George S. Henry, Government Leader.

"While tariff might aid the growers of early vegetables," continued Mr. Fletcher, "it does not provide a panacea for all our ills. The day is past when the two great political parties can be lined up in opposition on the tariff issue." (Applause.)

"I don't hear much support from your side," Liberal Leader Sinclair threw at Mr. Henry.

In a general review of farming activities in his electoral district, Mr. Fletcher pointed out that last year had not been a very good one, but that the farmers, "like Mr. Micawber," looked to the future with optimism.

The popularity of Mr. Shields, the next speaker, was evidenced in the applause from both sides of the House when he rose to continue the debate.

He started off with a eulogy of the Ferguson Government. He had heard, said he, of a conception that "big sticks and mailed fists" were the implements used on the followers of the Government.

"Are you with the Telegram?" F. G. Sandy (Progressive, South Victoria) inquired.

Mr. Shields replied that a man of the same name was on one of the