

# EAST ELGIN LIBERAL MAKES HOT ATTACK ON FERGUSON REGIME

## E. Blake Miller Warns People of Ontario That Plan to Extend University Work Into High Schools Shows Disas- trous Results in United States

### SAYS FARM POLICY IS RUINING FARMERS

With biting satire and stern denunciation, E. Blake Miller, Liberal stalwart from East Elgin, took the Ferguson Government to task yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Miller's scathing criticism of the present regime was his offering in the Budget debate. He followed Hon. John R. Cooke, Hydro Minister, who for an hour and a half reviewed Hydro affairs of the Province, and made his reply to Opposition criticism. Then, for an hour, Mr. Miller turned his guns on the Government generally, and on Premier Ferguson in particular.

He declared that the present administration was a most unfortunate and costly one for the farmers of the Province. He charged Premier Ferguson with "turning over the people of the Province, body and soul, to the Bankers' Association." And he maintained that if the Drury Government's policy toward the Provincial Bank had been carried out by the Ferguson Government there would have been an extensive increase in deposits rather than the decrease which has resulted.

Mr. Miller wanted to warn the people of the Province that Premier Ferguson's proposal of extending university work into high schools was a copy of a system which had most disastrous results in the United States. As a result of such a move in the States, said he, the people of that country were confronted with a terrible problem in high school life, with suicides among high school pupils, and generally with a condition of affairs that "is the disgrace of the whole country."

#### "Rip Van Winkle" Plan.

Mr. Miller also chided the Premier for proposing "free fertilizer" for the farmers of the Province. He said it must have been "Rip Van Winkle, not Ferguson," who broached such a project, for such production was several years old.

Mr. Miller declared that the Government had built a road at Port Rowan, in Hon. John S. Martin's riding, running from the main highway two and a half miles to the lake, near Long Point, and that it all was done "in a secretive way." His information was that it cost between \$65,000 and \$70,000, but there had been one rumor that \$100,000 taken from the Northern Development Branch had covered it. At any rate, said he, he and others had culled the Public Accounts, and found no explanation.

"What did the county pay?" a member asked.

"The county didn't make a contribution, because it would raise a stink," said Mr. Miller.

"And all," said he, "that we have to see for this road is a muskrat farm on one side of it, some hunting shacks on the other, and the smiling countenance of the Minister of Agriculture."

Mr. Martin declared that there were hundreds of applications for building permits on Long Point, and the park

was set aside by the Drury Government. Because there was no access there had been no development in six years.

Mr. Miller—The land there now is controlled by a hunting association. Is that correct or not?

Mr. Martin—It is not correct.

#### Shows Hunting License.

Mr. Miller produced a hunting license to prove his contention. Mr. Martin insisted that the land referred to led to the park.

Mr. Miller went on to criticize the Government's agricultural policy, maintaining that in the past five years the Ferguson Administration had cost the farmers millions of dollars in depreciated farm values.

Then on financial matters Mr. Miller recalled how the Drury Government had resented approaches from the Bankers' Association. "Yet," he went on, "when the Bankers' Association came to Premier Ferguson with its Satanic purpose of governing the people, he turned the people over to it, body and soul. True," said he, "that interest on farm loans had been reduced one-half of 1 per cent., but interest on other forms of loans were reduced from 2 to 3 per cent., and the Government made sure not to tell of the extortion on farmers," in its system of loans.

He declared that if the policy of the Drury Government toward the Provincial Bank had been carried on, there would have been \$70,000,000 or \$100,000,000 deposited there for the benefit of farmers and the man who put the money there.

#### High School Suicides.

Mr. Miller next attacked the Premier on his proposal of university work in high schools. He declared that the Prime Minister was, in this project, following a similar movement in the United States which had most disastrous results. In the States, said he, fraternity life had sprung up among high school and collegiate students so that they became unruly. Moreover, he declared that in the United States high schools there had developed "a sex problem that is the disgrace of the whole country," and that "suicides in the high schools and collegiate institutes are higher in the States than in any other country."

"And this," he climaxed his remarks, "is what the Premier advocates and submits for the Province of Ontario."

He also criticized the Premier for requiring teachers to have two years' Normal School training instead of one. He saw in this the "purpose of making a close monopoly of the teaching profession the same as lawyers and doctors and the increasing of the salary." Why, said he, Teachers' Boards were unanimous in declaring that it was the experience of the teacher that counted.

Then Mr. Miller got after the Premier on another topic. He recalled that, home from overseas last year, the Prime Minister had, in an interview, suggested the producing of "free fertilizers" for Ontario farms from nitrogen. Mr. Miller thought that it wasn't Mr. Ferguson, but "Rip Van Winkle," who gave that interview. For, said he back in 1911 European countries had been using such methods of producing fertilizer.

#### Only Want Square Deal.

"Free fertilizers," said Mr. Miller critically. "Why the farmers of Ontario don't want anything free. All they want is a square deal from this Government."

With this thought he concluded his address and A. C. Calder (Conservative, West Kent), adjourned the debate. The House then rose at 5.55 p.m.

Liberal Leader Sinclair yesterday questioned a report of Monday's proceedings in the House. So Hon. George S. Henry repeated a statement he had made on that occasion and told the members that Mr. Sinclair "is not a farmer, but spends his time in a law office."

Through an error, the word "lawyer" was printed instead of "farmer" in The Globe's report.

Aurelian Belanger (Liberal, Russell), protested another report denying statements and actions attributed to him. He thought perhaps the man meant in the article was Mr. Boulanger, M.P., and that it all showed the importance of changing a letter in a name.

# RURAL LINE CHARGE OF \$240,000 A YEAR MAY BE TRANSFERRED

## Commissioner Cooke Says Hydro Ought to Assume This Burden

### HIS PERSONAL VIEW ONLY

## Claims Power Costs on Rideau System Are to Be Reduced

That the time has come for the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission to assume the burden of maintenance charges on the rural Hydro System—a matter of \$240,000 a year—was the personal opinion advanced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon by Hon. John R. Cooke, Government member of that Commission.

Mr. Cooke made it plain that this proposal for the lowering of the costs to rural subscribers was his own personal thought. However, said he, if the Executive of the Union of Municipalities took it up with the members of the Commission and the Commissioners gave their approval, he would be pleased to tell the House of that consent.

#### Defends Hydro.

The Minister, continuing the Budget debate, spoke to the House for an hour and a half on Hydro affairs. Much of that time he gave over to a reply to Opposition members, who had criticized the system of rural Hydro rates, and much of that reply was in the form of a denunciation of those members for their attitude.

The announcement of his belief that the Commission should now act to reduce the rural "burden" came in the last moments of his address. He led up to his proposal by observing that rural Hydro costs amounted to \$2,200 a mile, that the maintenance charges were 3 per cent., or \$66, or a cost of roughly \$2 a month to three families on the line. He believed that the cost should be reduced, but the question was: Who shall assume the burden?

#### To Reduce Cost.

There was, said he, \$8,000,000 invested in rural Hydro, and that the 3 per cent. on this amounted to \$240,000. The Government, as a share in Hydro endeavor, contributed \$1,250,000. "I believe," he added, "that the Hydro Power Commission might easily be asked to assume a quarter of a million dollars a year to take care of those maintenance charges. If this was done the service charge to the majority of farmers would amount to \$1.50 a month."

Mr. Cooke observed that there was \$300,000,000 invested in the assets of the Hydro Commission and municipalities today. There is no tax on Hydro investments, only on certain lands. So that if it assumed the \$240,000 burden it would be no more than what represented a tenth of a mill increase in the tax rate of the Province.

During his speech Mr. Cooke also emphasized the problems of electric supply that faced the Hydro Commission. The demand goes up 10 per cent. each year, which means that with it being 1,000,000 horsepower this year the Commission must provide 1,100,000 horsepower next year and 1,210,000 in the following year.

#### Growth of Hydro.

Mr. Cooke's address dealt with the Hydro movement in the Province. He traced the growth of the enterprise from its inception down to the present day, and the wonderful contribution it has made to the industrial expansion of the country. Power at cost, he said, was the principle which underlay every bit of legislation on which the Hydro-Electric Power Commission operated, and as long as he was a member of the Commission that principle would remain. "Any departure from such a