

pathy with the blue ruin cry. How do you account for the tremendous increase year after year of the agricultural wealth of this Province, which last year reached a total of \$500,000,000?"

Coming to the question of the business administration of the Province, he declared that the present Administration on assuming office had enunciated three axiomatic principles of business administration, namely: honesty, economy and efficiency.

"I have waited five years," he said, "for any one to make the suggestion of the misappropriation of one penny, and I have yet to hear any such suggestion, either from within this House or in the Province. Economy, however, does not mean niggardliness. It means a prudent expenditure that will bring the biggest return to the Province. At the beginning of this Administration we said we would live within our income and reduce the tax burden. We have implemented our promise. We have lived within our income and reduced the tax burden, and it will be reduced further. In a few years there will be tax reductions that will be felt in the pocket of every ratepayer in this Province."

Premier Ferguson claimed that the debt increase complained of by Mr. Sinclair had been through borrowings, which, in turn, had been invested in Hydro, the T. & N.O., the Agricultural Development Board, highways, Northern development, the new Provincial buildings, and other public works.

"Increase in debt," he declared, "often means foresight to meet a situation. Here is money borrowed, and not spent, but invested in the welfare of the Province, and essential to the happiness and prosperity of the people."

Increased Debt.

Dealing with the debt retirement plan, in connection with which Mr. Sinclair earlier in the debate had stressed that the debt of the Province had increased instead of dwindled since it went into operation, Premier Ferguson insisted on going into data of the increased debt.

"The debt was \$97,000,000 when the Hearst Government went out of power. It was \$291,000,000 when the Drury Government had done. In 1923, it had increased to \$393,000,000, and now let us see where this additional \$102,000,000 comes in.

"Increased debt does not necessarily mean waste and extravagance," said the Premier, adding that the expenditures had meant investments, such as, for instance, \$26,000,000 in Hydro, and not waste. "The money was used for the welfare of the people of Ontario, for their benefit."

With regard to last year's increase of \$24,000,000 in the Provincial debt, Hon. Mr. Ferguson, admitting the correctness of the statement, outlined how \$6,500,000 had been invested in Hydro, \$3,500,000 in the Agricultural Board, \$13,500,000 in Northern Ontario development, and \$1,000,000 in public works. "Here's your \$24,000,000," said the Premier.

"As it is now we assume payment of the old accumulated debt. In 40 years it will be very small under the plan."

Mr. Sinclair—You're even better than the Treasurer.

The Premier—Well, of course, I can make it.

Mr. Ferguson insisted that now the Province paid off the old debt in proportion to the amounts of money which were borrowed annually.

"What taxes do we collect from the people?" asked the Premier. "We only collect for public service."

He insisted that there was every reason to collect the tax on deceased people's estates—people, said he, whom the Province had permitted to come here and make their fortune. Other taxes with equally sound reason for collection were the corporation tax, the gasoline tax, and the incomes from the Liquor Control Act. "That's the proper way to collect, for public service," he insisted.

One-third Never Would Be Missed.

Mr. Oke, the first speaker of the day in the debate, told the House that the extent of the estimates brought down each year seemed "ridiculous" to the average man. He thought that one-third of those estimates could be lopped off and never missed.

He went on to speak in praise of the farmers of the Province. He declared that the farmer could discuss a variety of topics intelligently. He admitted that the farmer might "use a little bad grammar" or get twisted in his spelling. "But," said he, "what does the proper spelling mean when it comes down to brass tacks?"

He wanted to tell the House of his attitude toward Hon. E. C. Drury and the Government that he led. "Mr. Drury," said he, "instead of catering to the farmers as I thought he should have done, associated with higher-ups. So I left."

Mr. Oke later stated that in the Drury regime he had seen a few men run everything, irrespective of the wishes of the members of the party.

He went on to declare that the Province would progress if there was no party representation in the Legislature. Why, he asked, should there be a party system in the House any more than in a County Council organization? Terming the party system "a most foolish thing," he told the members that they should "pattern" themselves "on County Council work."

"There isn't work in this Legislature," said he, "to keep us here a quarter of the time that we're kept here under the old party system."

He believed that there was no reason for a system such as existed whereby a whole party voted en bloc, or for a

Cabinet Council organization such as existed.

Criticism for Hydro.

Next Mr. Oke told the House that the Hydro policy was wrong at the start and should have been revised long before this. From the very first, said he, the undertaking should have been to look after the farmers who constituted the greatest industry. He pictured Hydro as a failure under the present system and declared: "I hope to see some man who is big enough to take the ox by the horns and change the system of Hydro distribution in this Province."

On the liquor situation Mr. Oke pictured hotel bedrooms as bar rooms.

Concluding his address he told the House that Thomas Farquhar, his colleague from Manitoulin, was in a hospital waiting to undergo a serious operation.

At some length, Dr. Paul Poisson criticized the last Robb Budget. As far as liquor traffic is concerned the Robb Budget could, he charged, be much more easily designated a "booze Budget" than the Ontario financial statement.

Speaking generally of farming conditions in Ontario, Dr. Poisson admitted that while those conditions might not be of the best from the farmer's point of view, the farmers, themselves, could do more than they are doing "to keep up with the spirit of the times."

Competition for Farmers.

Farmers must realize, he contended, that they are up against very severe competition from outside countries, and they will have to "produce the goods" if they desire to come out on top. Extensive educational methods through pictures and lectures, under departmental supervision, would, he felt, go a long way in teaching the farmers not only of his riding, but of every section of Ontario, to grow the best and get the best out of their lands.

Dr. Poisson expressed himself as strongly in favor of the extension and development of township roads, but felt that much of the "preaching" or advocacy of them should be done before the various County Councils.

The hope was expressed by the North Essex member that some of the money which is being collected under the Ontario Research Foundation would be devoted to keeping at home many of the young medical men who, with no aid now available here, go over to the United States to carry out important research work.

Dr. Poisson referred to the work of the Department of Health in its fight against pernicious anaemia, tuberculosis, and other diseases, and in this connection drew from Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey, Minister of Health, the reiteration that after an investigation of the pernicious anaemia situation, he now feels it his duty to provide sufferers from this disease with liver extract at cost, if not actually free of cost.

On the question of the Liquor Control Act, Dr. Poisson contrasted conditions as they obtain now under the Liquor Control Act with the days of the Ontario Temperance Act, when, he stated, truckloads of liquor, camouflaged as lumber, furniture, bananas, and what not, came into the Border Cities from Quebec, with Detroit-the-Sahara as their destination. Dr. Poisson said that the bootleggers were gradually being eliminated, and that people were in sympathy with the Liquor Control Act, and working to make the greatest possible success of it.

Dr. Poisson felt that the Government should pass regulations or see to it that the drinking of hard liquors would

be discouraged in favor of beer sale on the same order as wine sales.

"May I ask the gentleman," put in E. Blake Miller (Liberal, East Elgin)

"what difference there is between alcohol in whiskey and alcohol in beer?"

"Ahhhh!" came the groan from the Government benches.

"I don't think I need answer that question," said Dr. Poisson.

"I should say not," said the Government benches.

Mr. Weichel, continuing the debate, spoke at length of agricultural conditions in Waterloo County, and stated that the situation there did not corroborate the gloomy story that came from Opposition farmer members.

He had some suggestions for the Government. The first was that the amusement tax on amateur athletic sports be abolished. Mr. Weichel stated that he had been pressing this request and hoped that it would be granted.

Flaring Headlights.

Then he had some suggestions for Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Highways, on the matter of night driving of automobiles. He said that all cars might carry a spotlight fixed on the right side of the car at an angle of 45 degrees to throw a beam of light on the edge of the pavement. He would make such use of lights compulsory. Moreover, he suggested that the left front headlight on cars, the one directly in front of the driver, be changed to a dimmer or green light. This would eliminate much of the danger of glaring lights, he thought.

In conclusion Mr. Weichel referred to Federal financial affairs, and remarked on a difference in the Liberal party. The Liberals at Ottawa, said he, were emphasizing the prosperity of Canada, yet the Liberals in the Ontario Legislature were saying that the country "is going to the dogs."

Immediately following the division the House went into committee on the supplementary estimates. It passed item by item \$11,818 of the vote for the Prime Minister's Department. When it came to some Hydro charges, Mr. Sinclair suggested adjournment as the House might involve considerable discussion, so the committee formally passed the total vote for the Premier's department. This being the first on the list, on the understanding that it was open to questions and discussion at the next sitting and rose. The House then adjourned at 12.25 a.m.