

Tuesday - March - 19th

VOTING OF LUMP SUM TO NORTHERN ONTARIO ASSAILED BY SINCLAIR

Finlayson Says Expenditures There Cannot Be Anticipated

LETHBRIDGE IN SUPPORT

Liberal Leader William E. N. Sinclair's vigorous criticism of the Government's policy of lump-sum voting of \$5,000,000 toward Northern Ontario development not only featured yesterday's Legislature deliberations, but carried the business of the day into a night sitting. Before the House gave second reading to the bill authorizing this expenditure, one hour and three-quarters had been occupied in threshing what was chiefly "old straw," and Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests; J. G. Lethbridge, Progressive Leader; E. Blake Miller, Liberal, East Elgin; William Newman, Liberal, North Victoria; Hon. James Lyons, Conservative, Sault Ste. Marie, and Premier Ferguson had attuned their voices to the argument.

Following his policy of other years, Mr. Sinclair argued warmly that Northern Ontario expenditures should at first be budgeted like those of any other department, and that the public accounts should disclose some idea of where the expenditures are made and for what purpose. True it was, he admitted, that at the present time the moneys are divided under engineers' residencies, but the public accounts fail to show in what particular residency a sum of money is used.

Entitled to Information.

"We're generous in this Legislature," said Mr. Sinclair. "We hand it over to the Minister when he asks for it. Surely we are entitled to some information for it. In effect, we say: 'Go and spend it, where you like it, and how you like it.' That's all there is to it."

The meagre information supplied by the Government regarding the expenditures and the complaints that from time to time drifted down from settlers in the North would tend, he suggested, to support the impression that much of the vote was used for political purposes. While he was not criticizing the vote, he did strongly oppose the Government's method of dealing with it, and until the Legislature demanded and got some arrangement whereby the expenditures under Northern development were budgeted in advance, and explained in a detailed manner afterward, it would continue to neglect its duty, abandoning its prerogative, and act contrary to British precedent and principle.

In reply, Mr. Finlayson expressed himself as believing it unnecessary to speak to the second reading at all. He recalled that at the 1928 session of the House a Liberal member had moved a resolution asking that the expenditures be estimated in advance, but that, after his, Mr. Finlayson's, explanation of the situation, the resolution had been withdrawn, and every one had appeared clearly to understand the question. The Minister of Lands and Forests referred to the tour of the North made last summer by members of the Progressive group, under Government auspices, and suggested that the Liberal Party accept an invitation to tour the country this summer, and see for themselves, at first hand, the development work being done by the Government.

Tuesday - March - 19th

"That such person enter into a recognizance with or without sureties to keep the peace, and be of good behavior; that such person be placed upon probation for such period and under such circumstances as the Justice, Police Magistrate or Court before which he is brought may prescribe; that such person shall report from time to time during such period of probation to any Probation Officer that the Justice, Police Magistrate or Court may designate.

"That such person shall be under the supervision and direction of such probation officer during the said period of probation, and shall obey and carry out the instructions and directions of the said probation officer; that such person pay the costs of the prosecution or some portion of the same within such period and by such instalments as the Justice, Police Magistrate or Court before which he is brought may direct; that such offenders make such restitution and reparation to any person or persons aggrieved or injured by the offense charged, for any actual damage or loss thereby caused.

"That such person while on probation be ordered to provide for the support of his wife and any other dependant or dependants for whom he is liable; that such person perform and carry out any other direction and condition that such Justice, Police Magistrate or Court before which he is brought may prescribe and deem proper to impose."

The Act also stipulates that before directing the release or discharge of an offender, the Court or other official shall satisfy himself that the offender or his surety has a fixed place of abode or regular occupation; also, that if the probationer has failed to live up to the conditions of his recognizance, he may have a new information for the original offense charge laid against him.

Tuesday - March - 19th

PROBATION ACT, 1929, INTRODUCED BY PRICE

Directions and Conditions for Release Given in Detail

MUST HAVE FIXED ABODE

Legislation which Attorney-General Price introduced to the Legislature yesterday under the title of "The Probation Act of 1929," provides that, with the consent of the Crown, violators of the Criminal Code or the Ontario Statutes may be placed on probation, regardless of whether they have been previously convicted.

Having regard to the age, character, and antecedents of offenders, a Justice of the Peace, Police Magistrate or Court may release them under one or more of the following directions and conditions: