

March 12th

# ATTACK AND DEFENSE OF MANY POLICIES IS DEBATE FEATURE

## Liquor Conditions, Unemployment, Wolves, Colonization, Bucket Shops and Taxation Come In for Share of Spirited Discussion — Maiden Speech Causes Amusement

Ten speakers took part in the Budget debate in the Legislature yesterday, and before adjournment of the House was moved at 10.30 o'clock last night, practically every subject "under the sun" in which the Province of Ontario might be interested, was dealt with.

T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin), bitterly assailed conditions as he saw them under the Liquor Control Act, and called loudly for "a Raney or a Nickle" to succeed Attorney-General Price in the administration and enforcement of the act.

George Shields (Conservative, Woodbine), injected the St. Lawrence development question into debate, stressing the benefits in the way of relief of unemployment which would accrue, he thought, from a start on this long-proposed project.

### Wolf Question.

William Newman (Liberal, North Victoria), painted a picture of "we've got the wolf on the run," and pleaded for a higher Government bounty in order that the actual, for-all-time extermination of the animal might be accomplished.

E. F. Singer (Conservative, St. Andrews), advocated Federal legislation to stop hasty, ill-advised marriages, in order that Ontario's social welfare program might be advanced still further.

Earl Hutchinson (Labor, Kenora) urged the appointment of a House Committee or Royal Commission to inquire thoroughly into the whole Northern problem of homesteading and colonization.

Dr. Paul Poisson (Conservative, North Essex) appealed for a free gratis course in agriculture at the O.A.C., Guelph, for a boy and girl from every county, as a means of stimulating the farming industry.

### Dislikes Bucket Shops.

Mr. Elliott (Liberal, North Bruce) told the House that he would rather have a bucket shop in his town, any time, than a liquor store.

J. F. Reid (Conservative, West Windsor) lived up to his reputation, in a maiden speech, as the Legislature's biggest fun-maker, and J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry) protested the "burden of taxation" weighing down the United Counties.

The debate will continue on Thursday with T. J. Mahoney (Conservative, South Wentworth) picking up where Mr. Sangster left off. Indications are that a wind-up will come next Tuesday.

Mr. Slack referred particularly to the protests of people in the St. Clair-Oakwood district of Toronto in regard to the liquor store situation. "But," he said, "there is a great inconsistency of many people in that part of that riding in Toronto." He recalled that in the election, two out of three people of the riding had voted for the Government candidate who had an L.C.A. platform.

"Apparently," he said, "it's all right to establish a liquor store somewhere else, but not to have it planted right at their own door."

"I call on the electors, for goodness' sake, to be consistent," Mr. Slack declared.

### Bars On Wheels.

He went on to say that now, throughout the Province, there were running "barrooms on wheels." He noted the number of reunion celebrations at towns throughout Ontario, and declared that, at almost every one of them, there were automobiles loaded with liquor.

Mr. Slack stated that the effects of the liquor sales were shown in the number of "panhandlers" and "bums" in downtown Toronto. He defied any member of the House to walk for an hour in that district without being stopped by a beggar. And these men who were begging money were spending it in indulgence in strong drink, he said.

He felt that prohibition would of necessity return to this country. He stated that Henry Ford had said that 99 per cent. of the people of the United States obeyed the law.

### Tories Sceptical.

Conservative members laughed cynically.

"How about Chicago?" one shouted.

Mr. Slack again urged that every liquor bottle should carry a serial number, and said that this would aid in prevention of violations of the law.

George Shields (Conservative, Toronto-Woodbine) dealt almost entirely with the unemployment situation, stating that when the Ontario Government had been approached about conditions, they had promised to pay one-third of the excess cost of providing work if Ottawa and the municipalities would do likewise. Mr. Shields said that when Ottawa had been approached they had refused to participate in the arrangement, but had handed out "a stone instead of bread."

### Globe Criticized.

Premier Ferguson rose at this point to inform the House that in spite of Ottawa's unwillingness to continue the old one-third arrangement, his Government had decided to still maintain its one-third and pay it.

Mr. Shields took a jab at The Globe for its editorial attitude on the unemployment situation, claiming that the newspaper in question was ambidextrous, in that its left hand never knew what its right hand did, and vice versa, and that in this matter it "played politics in a matter of life and death."

Mr. Shields, in stressing the point that Queen's Park might well plan winter work for the unemployed, and so scatter throughout the Province the great concentration of drifters that usually made their way to Toronto and the larger centres, expressed the hope that the St. Lawrence development would be undertaken soon.

### Hydro Development.

William Newman spoke at length on the Hydro situation, and suggested that the Commission should do more to find and develop water power in the Province.

Mr. Newman referred to the radium-bearing metals at Wilberforce. He hoped that there would be such development there as would benefit not only Haliburton, but the whole world. He next suggested that there be better educational facilities for people in the North country. Referring to the fish and game conditions in the Province, he again advocated an increased wolf bounty.

### Backs Government.

E. F. Singer (Conservative, St. Andrews) eulogized the work of the Ferguson-Administration in the field of social welfare and reform. He stressed the advantages of the Bowmanville Boys' Training School, stating that it tended to develop individuality in the boy—"the great safety valve against communism."

Mr. Singer felt that the Ontario Government could make even greater strides in its social welfare development program, if the Government at Ottawa would pass some legislation to prohibit ill-advised and hasty marriages.

"Children resulting from this type of marriage are beginning to fill our mental hospitals," warned Mr. Singer. "If the Federal Government would only act to bring some check upon them, the children resulting from them would be healthier, the family life would be happier, and there would be no need to deal with the bogey of divorce."

Earl Hutchinson (Labor, Kenora) stated that he regretted that there were certain important matters not mention-

ed in the Budget presentation. For instance, he continued, why had there not been reference to the wild lands tax. He recalled that Hon. Charles McCrea, in his election campaign, had stated that he would try and get that tax on lands in unorganized districts repealed.

This, said Mr. Hutchinson, was a topic of particular interest in the North country, and he thought something should be done in the way of ending the tax. He also suggested that there was "something wrong" in the Ontario Tax Department, for he said, certain people had year after year received tax bills on lands which were exempt.

### Good Fishing.

He went on to refer to vacational resources of the Kenora district, observing that it usually won the prize for the largest 'lunge and trout on this continent.

In conclusion, he dealt with the subject of colonization in the North country. He suggested that the whole situation should be investigated by a committee of the House or by a Commission similar to that inquiring into the hospital situation.

Dr. Paul Poisson (Conservative, North Essex) lauded the Budget of the Provincial Treasurer, and claimed that the Federal Government would be well advised to take a leaf out of the latter's debt-retirement scheme.

### Supports Spending.

Dr. Poisson said that when it came to the expenditure of moneys, the Province simply could not afford to stand still; that great public services had to be maintained, and advanced as well. There would be no quarrel, he felt, with increasing expenditures, as long as they were made honestly and with discretion.

### Is Optimistic.

Dr. Poisson deprecated the "blue ruin" talk concerning agriculture, and quoted statistics to show the benefits which the Ferguson Government, through Hydro extension and other mediums, was conveying to the farmers of the Province. Stressing the value of educational work in producing higher grade produce and more contented farmers, Dr. Poisson believed that the Government would be making a wise move were it to select each year for free training at the O.A.C. at Guelph a boy and girl from every county in Ontario.

Contributions to technical education was another avenue of expenditure along which the Government was acting wisely, he claimed.

At some length Dr. Poisson referred to the "great strides" made by Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey and his Health Department in cutting down yearly the extent of infectious and communicable diseases. He said that the department's successful fight against the infantile paralysis epidemic of last year was "the wonder of the world."

F. W. Elliott (Liberal, North Bruce) quoted statistics extensively in criticiz-