

March 14th.

OPPOSITION SILENT AS 3 CONSERVATIVES TALK IN SUCCESSION

Seven Out of Eleven Participants in Thursday's Legislature Debate Are Tories — "Panhandling" Complaints Answered

HIGH TRIBUTE PAID TO PRIME MINISTER

The Budget debate in the Ontario Legislature was advanced yesterday by eleven speakers. Of these, seven were Conservative members, and as evidence of the Tory strength in the House three Conservatives spoke in succession without the interjection of an Opposition member.

Those who took part in the debate were, in speaking order: T. J. Mahony (Conservative, South Wentworth), D. M. Ross (Progressive, North Oxford), W. G. Martin (Conservative, Brantford), T. P. Murray (Liberal, South Renfrew), T. H. Bell (Conservative, Bellwoods-Toronto), T. A. Blakelock (Liberal, Halton), J. F. Strickland (Conservative, Peterboro' City), W. J. MacKay (Liberal, South Bruce), F. J. McArthur (Conservative, Northumberland), F. D. Laughton (Conservative, North Middlesex) and H. J. Davis (Conservative, East Elgin).

Much Cross-Fire.

As usual, the speakers from the Government side rapped the Opposition, and the Opposition, in turn, fired verbal volleys at the Government.

The debate continued throughout the afternoon and night. W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, adjourned it at 11.15 p.m., to be continued on Tuesday.

F. J. McArthur took exception to the remarks of T. V. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin) regarding the number of "panhandlers" in downtown Toronto. Mr. McArthur maintained that the economic conditions always involved a decrease in work in the winter time.

He also voiced a eulogy of Hon. John R. Cooke, Hydro Commissioner, and the Government's Hydro policy.

Mr. McArthur, concluding his address, expressed an opinion that won him tremendous applause from his fellow-Tory benches. He said that Premier Ferguson was the most outstanding statesman in Canada.

F. D. Laughton submitted that the Ferguson Government won the confidence of the electorate.

Mr. Laughton spoke of the Weed Act and the Corn-Borer Act, and then referred to live stock and apples.

Upholds Hydro Policy.

T. J. Mahony (Conservative, South Wentworth), in his opening remarks when he continued the Budget debate, spoke emphatically in favor of the Government's Hydro policy, and in this connection he eulogized Hon. John R. Cooke, Hydro Commissioner.

Then he continued to speak on the general road building situation in the Province, and the problems involved. In this regard he said: "Roads do cost rural municipalities more than they should."

He had particular criticism for the Federal Government declaring that it offered only "excuses" instead of contributing to Provincial highway building enterprises.

He reviewed at length the value of good roads in the attracting of tourists to this Province, and expressed the thought that the Dominion authorities should certainly aid in extensions.

Charges Patronage.

D. M. Ross (Progressive, North Oxford), claimed that there was no place in which patronage was carried "to greater extremes" than in all departments of the Ferguson Government.

Mr. Ross bitterly attacked the Government's action in appointing "a good Conservative worker" to the job of issuer of motor licenses for Oxford County, when a number of returned men were available for the position, and one, in fact, a veteran with one leg, and son of a widow who had given her whole family to the service of King and country, had been approved of, and recommended by the local branch of the Legion.

Mr. Ross said that, possibly the local Conservative organization was more to blame than Queen's Park, but it did seem a pity, to him, that a man's service on behalf of his country, could be shoved aside "so lightly," for the sake of party politics.

Rev. W. G. Martin (Conservative, Brantford), expressed the belief that Provincial Treasurer Monteith's Budget speech should be broadcast the length and breadth of the country. He said the optimistic note in the speech would do much to alleviate the depression that existed in some sections of the country.

Burden of Taxation.

T. P. Murray, in his opening remarks, stated: "The previous speakers have referred to so many things that it is impossible for me to remember what has been said." Going on with his address, he maintained that people of the Province were struggling under a burden of taxation.

Mr. Murray spoke at length on the "wolf" question. He observed that his county had had many sheep killed, but naively remarked that it had been decided that wolves had done the damage, for if it had been dogs the damage would have to be paid.

Thomas H. Bell (Conservative, Bellwoods) dealt with the question of immigration and colonization, claiming that Northern Ontario "would not have been worth a station for growing wheat" if the Government had not given aid through an agricultural research program that was more and more being extended, and which was, in the speaker's opinion, to carry great things to the farmer in future.

T. A. Blakelock (Liberal, Halton) made a strong plea for the taking over by the Government of the municipalities' 20 per cent. contribution to Provincial highways. With many municipalities "fairly struggling to get along, it was only fair," he said, "that they be relieved of this burden of taxation."

Opposes Fee System.

Mr. Blakelock also advocated the abolition of the fee system among Magistrates. Many Magistrates, he said, might easily be influenced to get convictions rather than lose their fees.

"This system," said he, "should be entirely done away with in this Province. It might cost a little extra money, but I feel any action the Attorney-General might take in this way would be justified."

Mr. Blakelock felt that the brokers' situation would "take care of itself."

J. F. Strickland (Conservative, Peterboro' City) paid tribute to the work of Attorney-General Price, stating that no one could have done any more in connection with the recent brokerage situation than Colonel Price had done.

W. J. MacKay (Liberal, South Bruce) advanced the claim that the Ferguson Government had lost the confidence of the rural districts.

"There is a feeling among the municipalities," he stated, "that too much attention is being concentrated on this Toronto."

More Equable Rate.

Speaking of the Hydro policy of the Government, Mr. MacKay said that, while he would not favor a flat rate charge, he would advocate "a more equable rate" than now enjoyed by the rural consumers.

Liberal Leader Sinclair adjourned the debate. It will be resumed and wound up on Tuesday next.

POSSIBLE FOUL PLAY IN DOUBLE DEATHS, MEMBER DECLARES

Thomas P. Murray Asks for Investigation Into Haliburton Case

TRAGEDY OF YEAR 1926

That there was foul play in the deaths of William Stringer and John Billings, Ontario forest rangers in Haliburton, four years ago; that the situation was never cleared up, and that the Government should investigate it thoroughly, was the thought expressed last night in the Ontario Legislature by Thomas P. Murray (Liberal, South Renfrew).

Referring to the deaths, Mr. Murray declared that a number of people had thought that there was foul play.

It was also believed, he added, that the Government should have sent an officer in to the district in disguise to investigate.

Both of these men, said he, were soldiers of the Empire who had come to an untimely death. Surely the matter should be investigated. One in particular had an outstanding record.

Stringer and Billings were believed burned to death in a shack in Haliburton County some time between Jan. 8 and 20, 1926. An arrest was made in connection with the case.