

much at large. We wish Mr. Sinclair a long and happy life in this Legislature. We are so well acquainted that we would not like to lose him."

Referring again to Mr. Aepburn, Premier Henry doubted that he wished to get into the Legislature. "He lets some one else go to the slaughter," he declared. "He wants to remain outside, irresponsible, free to come and go, and not to be called to account for his views."

He said he noted that the Liberal Leader across the floor of the House had not participated in the by-elections, and those who had attended meetings in Grenville had spoken at small meetings where they were not reported.

#### "Campaign of Vilification."

"There have been Administrations in this Province that the people have thrown out of office and then tried to forget," Premier Henry continued, "but even during such Administrations there has never been such a campaign of vilification and abuse as that directed against the Government in the last few months. There were accusations that women would have their pensions and mothers' allowances taken from them if they voted against the Government. They were women of the imagination only. There were even letters written me and asking me most specific questions—but they were letters that never got into my office. During the seven years of the Conservative Administration the Public Accounts Committee has had the fullest opportunity of scrutinizing the expenditures of hundreds of millions of dollars, and not one dollar has ever been found to have gone astray."

Mr. Nixon asked if the Prime Minister could point with any pride to the reduced majorities which his party had had in the ridings of West Hamilton and Grenville.

Mr. Henry—Is my honorable friend serious about that question?

Mr. Nixon—I certainly am.

#### Different in Hamilton.

The Prime Minister said that the situation was very different in Hamilton in the by-election than in other elections. In the past the late Hon. Fred T. Smye, an outstanding business man and community leader, had been known to his riding for some thirty years. The Liberals had had difficulty in finding candidates to run against him. They ran them, not with any hope of winning, he contended, but merely to put on a show.

Mr. Henry was glad to find, he stated, that the Liberal Party, in spite of the difficulties which the convention had recently plunged it into, had made some progress in the last twelve months. They had come to see eye to eye with the Government; that Government control was the only satisfactory manner of handling the liquor traffic. "They have arrived," said he, "and they are one with us."

"Not yet," put in Charles A. Robertson (Liberal, North Huron).

Mr. Henry—Well, your party says so.

Mr. Robertson—You just wait a while.

Mr. Henry—Well, you are the elective representatives of your party. You are the only Liberals in the public life of this Province. It is to you that we look to for a decision on this question.

Co-operation of all parties and all ranks was welcomed by the Government, Mr. Henry added, in the educational work which the Government was prepared to extend in educating the public to the benefits of a temperate life and to the abuses and evils of strong drink.

#### Stock Situation.

Another unjustified form of campaign in the by-elections, the Prime Minister contended, was the effort on the part of the Liberal candidates to hold the Government responsible simply because stock into which a man might put his money might go down. This sort of talk was hurled all through the campaigns, he stated, and illustrations of cases were set forth. In the form of a contrast, the Premier produced the Holmsted letter, which was reproduced by the Conservative press during the election, as an "unsolicited letter" received by the Attorney-General from an out-and-out Liberal,

praising the Attorney-General for what he had done in bringing unscrupulous brokers to task, generally, and commending the Conservative Government for putting the Security Frauds Prevention Act on the statute books of the Province.

From the editorial campaign carried on by The Globe, continued Premier Henry, one would think "that murders were being committed and no one was being arrested for it, that we were almost making Ontario a happy hunting ground for the gangster; one would almost think the paper was advertising the Province along that line. Look at the records, and you will find there is no justification for that fact. The percentage of solved murders during the last three years was higher than any time during the last ten or twenty years, and the climax comes when they sent—I don't know whether they sent him—their editorial writer, anyway, goes to Hamilton and tries his luck in the campaign. The climax of the campaign entered on two or three years ago against the administration of the Attorney-General's Department."

"Sometimes I read in this journal published on Melinda Street an editorial on moral and religious matters. I think sometimes I get good from it. And I feel like suggesting to them that they might get one of their editorial writers—possibly Captain Philpott himself; after his experience he ought to be able to speak from the heart—to

write an editorial on the folly of muck-raking."

#### Bus Problem.

Premier Henry spent some time explaining the Government's attitude toward busses. There has been a suggestion, he said, that busses were favored at the expense of the railways. This was not true. "The department is not in league with the bus companies," he declared. "It is seeking to take care of a service that the public demands. The diversion of traffic from railways to busses is a modern trend."

Regarding the activities of the Department of Public Health, Premier Henry said. "The Government is seriously considering the idea of making radium treatment available to all sufferers from cancer. Plans have not been fully completed, but we are preparing the way to make radium, and the services of the men skilled in its use, available to people so they will not have to depend on treatments at large centres and institutions."

Changes in the grants to schools with the aim of increasing them where the tax rate was high, and decreasing them where the tax rate was low, were explained by the Premier. Referring to Mr. Sinclair's statement regarding the increases in taxation, Premier Henry declared the cause was that the people of the Province were ambitious and not satisfied with anything but the best. The debt had increased \$194,000,000 during the Drury regime. But during the seven years of the Ferguson regime the debt increase had been \$10,000,000 less than that figure.

Mr. Nixon—Will my honorable friend give the figures on the indirect debt?

The Premier rebutted the suggestion in Mr. Sinclair's speech that there was a lowering in the percentage of total revenue devoted to agriculture.

"Millions of dollars go to rural Ontario in increased school grants, Hydro extensions, mothers' allowances, and other ways," he said. Referring to Mr. Sinclair's remarks on the depression in farming and his appeal for a serious non-partisan study of the problem with a view to finding a remedy, Premier Henry declared: "No one knows better than I the plight of the farmer. Although there was a bumper crop this year, he is worse off than before, because of the reduced prices for his produce and the reduction in the purchasing power on the part of consumers. I welcome the co-operation of the Leaders on the other side of the House to improve conditions."

The Premier said that, while all efforts should be made to improve conditions, the Government would be well advised to go a little slower and live within its income.

## "You Lower Yours and I'm Willing to Take Less," He Tells Government—Liberal House Leader, "Not for Party, But for the State," Makes Constructive Suggestions

### MUCH APPLAUSE FROM ALL HOUSE

It was a new Sinclair the Ontario Legislature saw in action yesterday—a man who, now "freed from the limitations of party leadership," spoke, as Liberal lawyer, Liberal farmer and Liberal citizen, an emphatic desire to co-operate rather than to criticize—an old guardsman who buried the hatchet on the brokerage and the "booze" questions that he was so prone to clash at and into in other sessions, to plead in quiet but compelling language, the cause of the Ontario farmer under present-day depressed conditions, and to urge upon the House and Government the immediate adoption of steps which, in his opinion, would aid immeasurably in relieving the agriculturist's plight.

"My suggestion today," said Mr. Sinclair during the debate, "is that this session be given over almost entirely to a study of farm conditions in this Province. I am making the suggestion early, so it cannot be said there is no time."

The Agriculture Committee of the House—a committee which, he contended, had long been "a society for the entertainment and improvement" of the farmer members of the Assembly, and, as such, "largely useless" to the farmers of the Province at large—should, he submitted, be converted into an inquiry committee for the current session, at least, empowered to take evidence, and to submit to the session some report out of which could be built further benefits to the "hard-hit" and suffering man on the farm.

Mr. Sinclair's reception in the Leaders' day debate of yesterday was probably the most outstanding accorded an Opposition group head in the past quarter of a century. His own supporters and Government benchers, alike, dined



W. E. N. Sinclair.



Hon. H. C. Nixon.

out applause, not only when he took his seat for the first time this session, but when he rose to speak; and still again when he had concluded his forceful presentation of the farmer's part in the progress of the Province, and the need for aiding that farmer if progress and growth, in which the urban centres shared equally, were to be continued.

#### No Politics.

There was no rancor in the Liberal House Leader's remarks. Not one "hot shot." Not one sly gibe. "This is no political question," he said of his single-track discussion, "and I hope to serve not in a critical, captious, biased manner, but in a constructive manner which will be helpful to our people."

Associated with Mr. Sinclair in upholding the Opposition end of yesterday's debate was Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, who also tackled the agriculture question, but in a biting, cynical vein, attacking the Government's