

HELP FOR FARMERS IN VARIOUS WAYS SUGGESTED IN HOUSE

Slack Urges Farm Board to Cut Interest Rate on Loans

FRUIT TERMINAL MARKET

With the problems of rural Ontario figuring as the main subject for attention, ten members of the Legislature participated in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne yesterday afternoon and evening.

Speakers on the Opposition side of the House devoted their addresses mainly to a discussion of the plight of the farmer in the present period of depression, and urged on the Government the adoption of several remedial measures. Among these suggestions were: Relief from contributions of 20 per cent. of the costs of highways; lowering of the rate of interest for loans on farm properties by the Agricultural Development Board; and improvement of methods and facilities of marketing agricultural products.

First Night Sitting.

It was the first night sitting of the present session, and was called with a view to speeding up the debate.

In suggesting that the Agricultural Development Board reduce its rate of interest on farm loans, T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin) launched a severe criticism at banks and financial houses for calling loans and foreclosing mortgages in periods of depression. S. C. Tweed (Liberal, Waterloo North) urged the construction of a large public market in connection with the projected new fruit terminal in Toronto.

Among other highlights of the debate was the advocacy by E. C. Graves (Conservative, St. Catharines) of the establishment of a cold-storage plant and a distillery to convert waste fruit into alcohol on the Niagara Peninsula. The adjournment of the debate was moved by E. J. Murphy (Conservative, Toronto-St. Patrick) shortly before 11 o'clock.

More Time for By-Elections.

S. C. Tweed (Liberal, North Waterloo) advocated a change in the law which would make it unnecessary for members appointed to the Cabinet within two or three years after election to seek re-election. At present members appointed to the Cabinet within five months of their election do not have to seek re-election. Mr. Tweed thought that the extension of this time would encourage the appointments to Cabinet positions of men of capacity rather than

of ability to roll up big majorities. He mentioned that the Liberals had not contested by-elections brought on by recent appointments to the Cabinet.

Although immigration was a matter for the Federal rather than the Provincial Government, Mr. Tweed devoted quite a large part of his address to discussion of incidents of hardship and unfairness which had resulted from recent rules and regulations promulgated at Ottawa. "A good deal more human kindness could be shown to the immigrants in Canada, and also to those who have gone to the United States for short visits," said Mr. Tweed.

"Not Wanted by People."

"Immigration instructions of that kind are not wanted by the people of Canada," he averred.

Declaring that prosperity would not come to Canada until the farmer was prosperous, Mr. Tweed advocated the construction of a large public market adjacent to the proposed new fruit terminal in Toronto. He quoted figures to show that there was a tremendous spread in the price of produce paid by the consumer and that received by the grower, the bulk of the spread being taken up by retailers' profits. The advertising campaign to promote the sale of Ontario produce in Eastern and Western Canada should include Toronto, he thought, as this the home market would be one of the most profitable. "Toronto has one of the smallest markets for a large city on the continent. The City Council has been supporting the retailers against the growers," he declared.

Discusses Radium Plan.

George Shields (Conservative, Toronto-Woodbine) delivered a half-hour address on the value of radium in the treatment of cancer, commending the Government's proposal to give radium free to all cancer sufferers, and urging that adequate steps be taken, under such policy, to meet the situation of the middleman, who might, he said, be too proud to accept treatment free, but who, at the same time, might be "too poor" to pay for radium treatments out of his own pocket.

Mr. Shields urged the construction of a hospital to care for cancer sufferers, and said that the Government should not only undertake to provide a radium foundation, but should supervise the actual distribution of the precious treatment.

Larger Loans, Lower Interest.

Criticism of banks and financial institutions for calling loans and foreclosing mortgages, together with strong advocacy that the Agricultural Development Board increase the amount of its loans and lower interest rates, featured the address of T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin). "Many are complaining bitterly that in times of depression banks are always calling in small local loans," said Mr. Slack, who cited the case of a farmer of excellent credit having to make sacrifices in stock during the present winter, due to pressure from a bank and financial company. Another farmer of long standing had been forced into the ranks of the city's unemployed through the same causes.

"The only solution," he said, "is for the Agricultural Development Board in time of depression to extend the amount of the loans from 50 to 66 2-3 per cent. of the appraised value." The banks had so much money tied up they didn't know what to do with it.

Mr. Slack also advocated that the Agricultural Department promote the establishment of a co-operative packing plant. He concluded by urging that economy should be the watchword of the Government, stating that public men should be willing to accept reductions in salaries during periods of depression. Another form of economy would be to reduce the amount of money spent on liquor, he averred, advocating that individual permit holders might be limited in their purchases. With a million a week spent on strong drink workmen could not make the necessary purchases for their tables. After a recent snowstorm in Toronto, he had observed that many of the laborers employed headed directly for the liquor stores when they received their pay.

Not Only Class Hit.

F. J. McArthur (Conservative Northumberland) stressed the point to

the House that the farmers were not the only class that could not "balance their budgets."

"All ranks are in a state of depression," he claimed, "and the farmers aren't a bit worse off than any one else." Farmers produced excellent goods, he stated. They worked hard—far into the night, in fact—but they did not know the business of merchandising their products—of advertising them—and consequently they suffered. "Any large department store would go insolvent in a few months," he insisted, "if it stopped advertising."

Mr. McArthur commended the proposed steps the Government will take to establish a marketing board in Ontario on behalf of the farmer and his products. As an example of what the farmer might do, if he would market his products properly, the speaker cited the cases of "good Canadian cider" and tomato juice.

"Get the people drinking good cider," he said, "and they will stop drinking Scotch whiskey."

Tomato juice could be used as a substitute for the great quantities of orange juice consumed daily. If this policy was pushed home, thousands of dollars that are now spent on imported oranges could, he argued, go into the pockets of Ontario's own tomato-growing farmers.

J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry) created the greatest cross-fire of the afternoon when he launched into a criticism of the Government's road-building policy, and cited instances of

a highway in his own county to buttress his arguments. At times the exchange between Mr. Sangster and the Premier was in a facetious vein that caused uproarious laughter.

Criticizing an item for weeding in the cost of highway construction in his county, Mr. Sangster declared: "Any one who got the job of cutting those weeds had a mighty good job."

Premier Henry—Maybe I could make a bargain with the honorable member.

Mr. Sangster hesitated a moment. Then, slapping his thigh, declared: "Taken."

One Liberal in System.

Liberal Leader Sinclair — Then there'll be one Liberal in the Provincial highways system.

Mr. Sangster—Perhaps, if I get the job, you won't be sure of me long.

Continuing, Mr. Sangster said that the highway costs were a very serious burden on rural taxpayers. They should, he thought, be relieved of their 20 per cent. of the cost. The profits of the Liquor Board should be devoted to this work.

Dr. A. R. McMillen (Conservative, Lambton West) devoted most of his address to a review and a eulogy of the Government in respect of the work of the Provincial Board of Health. Earlier remarks, however, drew the fire of Hon. H. C. Nixon. Dr. McMillen said that the groans heard this session from the Leader of the Progressive Party should be diagnosed as the groans of a dying party.

Mr. Nixon—Growing pains. (Applause.)

If they were growing pains, retorted Dr. McMillen, the party which had once been in full manhood must now be in its second childhood.

Would Abolish Payment.

T. A. Blakelock (Liberal, Halton) condemned the Government's extravagance, and stated emphatically that had the Drury Government remained in power until today the country would not be saddled down with the taxation it is now compelled to bear. Mr. Blakelock advocated immediate abolition of the 20 per cent. payment which the