

PROMOTION PLANS OF MILLING CONCERN DRAW LIBERAL FIRE

Hipel Tells of Alleged Activities and Wants Something Done

MORE INFORMATION YET

Alleged promotion operations of the Vitamin Milling Company of Canada, Limited, a concern proposing to manufacture whole-wheat flour, and a firm whose activities to date have been identified chiefly with the Counties of Waterloo and Perth, were bared in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Norman O. Hipel, young Liberal member for Waterloo South.

In severely criticizing the stock sales of the company, Mr. Hipel stated that he had "further startling information" that he could give regarding it, and asked that the Attorney-General of the Province take action "before further sums of money are extracted from the public by such fraudulent methods."

To *The Globe*, afterward, Hon. William H. Price declared that action would be taken—that already the affairs of the company had been under investigation by Colonel Walter W. Denison, Registrar of Companies and Brokers.

Criticizes Campaign Methods.

Mr. Hipel's revelations were made at the conclusion of a spirited speech in which he condemned at length the campaign methods of the Government candidates and of Government Min-

isters in the last October by-election in which he (Mr. Hipel) was victorious. It came near the close of a dull, dragging day on the Address debate, and it helped to rouse the House somewhat from the lethargy into which it had slipped hours earlier.

"I have a matter of importance," said Mr. Hipel, "which I wish to bring to the attention of the members of this House, and more particularly to the attention of the Attorney-General.

"During the early part of the year 1929 a limited company, known as the Vitamin Milling Company of Canada, Limited, which proposed to manufacture whole-wheat flour, came to the Town of Preston and negotiated with the officials of the town for a proposed site.

Tells of Securities Company.

"When this was all arranged, they opened an office and brought with them a company, known as Acme Securities Limited, which also opened an office in the town, and which undertook to sell stock for the Vitamin Milling Company of Canada, Limited. Quite a number of people purchased stock and paid for it with the understanding that the plant would be erected in Preston.

"A representative of the Vitamin Milling Company, Limited, engaged a local construction company to prepare plans, also engaged a local company to do some work on the site, such as grading, etc.

"However, the company decided, for some reason or other, to leave the Town of Preston, and move to the Village of Tavistock, which is outside of our county.

"When the company left Preston, the people who had paid for their stock demanded their money back, but couldn't get it until a writ was issued against the company. The local construction company that prepared the plans and supplied materials for signs and paid labor for preparing the site have not been paid to date.

Move to Tavistock.

"The Vitamin Milling Company and

Acme Securities Limited then moved up to the Village of Tavistock and opened an office. I have been told by citizens and a member of the Council of Tavistock that the company made an arrangement something like this: If the village supplied the site and the people subscribed a certain amount of stock the plant would be built in Tavistock.

"Now I am informed that almost the whole amount requested was subscribed, and certain men were prepared to subscribe more than the balance required, as per the arrangement, but these men said they would not hand over the cash, but were prepared to deposit the cash in a special account in the bank for the company as soon as the company had the building either partially erected or completed.

"But the stock salesmen would not accept such an arrangement, which would lead one to believe that there was no intention of building the plant in Tavistock.

Stock Salesmen Criticized.

"I am also told that one of the stock salesmen stayed at one of the hotels in Tavistock under a false or assumed name. When his real name was established he left that section of country.

"Stock was sold and cash obtained from women and some young men who were promised work or employment in the new plant, and who gave up their savings with the expectation of getting employment.

"At the annual nomination meeting held at Tavistock last year, there was considerable discussion re these two companies. One citizen declared the whole situation could be summed up in three B's, Bluff, Bluster and Buncombe. He also asked: Who is the Acme Securities Company? W. Baxter Brooks is the President, and W. Baxter Brooks is the promoter of the Vitamin Milling Company."

After quoting from published building reports which noted calls for tenders to build a flour mill at Tavistock, Oshawa, and Brampton, all mills being listed as owned by the Vitamin Milling Company of Canada, Limited, Mr. Hipel said:

"Re the report of Nov. 14 at Oshawa, the question is, Was the contract actually let to T. B. Mothersill & Co., or was it a false report handed out as a bait to get stock subscriptions?

"Regarding the report of Jan. 2 at Brampton, Does the company actually intend to erect a mill at Brampton or is it a further bait to sell stock?

"How many more innocent women are going to be victims for these brokers or stock salesmen? How many more men out of employment are going to be promised good jobs, provided they part with their cold cash? How many more farmers will be persuaded to part with their cash by these high-pressure stock salesmen with the promises of a ready market and better prices for their wheat

"Startling Information."

"Now, Mr. Speaker, I have laid this case before the Hon. the Attorney-General rather briefly, but I can assure him that I have further startling information re these two companies, and I am prepared to give him or his department further information; but what we want is some action by his department before further sums of money are extracted from the public by these companies by such fraudulent methods."

AMENDMENT ASKED TO MUNICIPAL ACT

Would Eliminate Candidates With Little or No Property Interest

Elimination from municipal election contests of candidates having little or no property interest in the municipalities in which they run, is being asked by the municipality of Sandwich East, by way of an amendment to the Ontario Municipal Act. Yesterday, the Reeve, Ernest Morand, and two of the Councillors had a conference with J. A. Ellis, K.C., of the Railway and Municipal Board, at Queen's Park.

They are asking that property qualifications required of candidates until 1920, and wiped out then by the Drury Government, be restored.

The purpose of this request, it is understood, is to bar from municipal Council candidature all but responsible persons with a definite "stake" in the municipality.

For years, until 1920, property qualifications for candidates were set out, which barred from candidature all but:

1. The owner or wife or husband of the owner of property within the municipality, worth at least \$2,000.
2. The owner or wife or husband of an owner, or tenant or wife or husband of a tenant, of property worth: (a) In a village property owned, worth \$200, or leased, worth \$400; (b) in a township, \$400 or \$800; (c) in a town, \$600 or \$1,200; (d) in a city, \$1,000 or \$2,000.

In unorganized territory: (a) In a township, \$100 or \$200; (b) in a city or town, \$400 or \$800.

Eliminated in 1920, these provisions were replaced by provisions which threw the election field open to all property owners or tenants, regardless of the value of the properties they occupied.