

Feb. 17.

PRESIDENT OF O.A.C. CRITICIZED IN HOUSE FOR TIP TO FARMERS

Nixon Declares "Sacrifice
Stuff" May Be Applied
to Dr. Christie

DEFENDED BY PREMIER

Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, and Premier Henry tangled briefly in the Legislature yesterday on the question of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, and the status of Dr. G. I. Christie, head of that Provincial institution.

Referring to the present "tax burden" of the Ontario farmer, Mr. Nixon deplored the lack of any suggestion in the Speech from the Throne that might aid the agricultural industry, saying there was nothing of promise to the farmers from Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy, the Minister of Agriculture, "excepting the appointment of more officials who do not even know the farmers' language (as the Minister himself says); and from the great mogul of agriculture, Dr. Christie, our \$8,000 President of the O.A.C., only the suggestion that the farmers be content to take a reasonable profit for their wheat, and the admonition that their only salvation is to sacrifice more and work harder."

"We'll have to see when the estimates come 'round," added Mr. Nixon, "if we can't ring him in on this sacrifice stuff, as one thing misery does love is company, and I am certain that Dr. Christie, with his deep solicitude for the farmer, will be most happy to furnish this solace."

Premier Henry, during his turn on the debate, rushed to Dr. Christie's defense, saying that the O.A.C. head had accomplished something "decidedly worth while," and that one of the things that the late Hon. John S. Martin would long be remembered for was his inducing of Dr. Christie to come to Ontario and take over the office he now administers.

"At Guelph," continued the Premier, "we have something to our everlasting credit. We have done something there for the farmers of the Province."

"You have spent something like \$1,000,000 on a new building," put in Mr. Nixon.

"Yes," said Mr. Henry, "and the farmers are proud of it. We have put up something for their service."

Mr. Nixon smiled.

"Do you want me to proceed further?" asked the Premier. "I remember well when you sat on these benches for four years, just twiddling your thumbs."

Claim that every building put up there by the former Drury Administration had "gone down" was met by Mr. Nixon with the heated comment:

"I am not going to stand for that. I challenge that statement. Any one knows what the conditions at Guelph are."

OFFERING EXPENSES, HENRY CHALLENGES M.P.P. TO TRY AGAIN

Premier Replies to Nixon's
Suggestion to Call
Election

PEOPLE'S MANDATE LOST

Premier George S. Henry before the Legislature yesterday challenged D. Paul Munro, Liberal victor in the comparatively recent South Wellington by-election, "to try again, and see what the result would be."

The Premier's challenge, hurled in reply to Opposition taunts regarding the trimming handed the Government in that campaign, drew a barrage of "Oh's" from the Liberal and Progressive benches.

"I mean it," said the Prime Minister with some heat.

"Will you pay his expenses?" put in Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader.

"Yes," retorted Mr. Henry. "I will pay his own legitimate personal expenses."

In speaking earlier of the South Wellington result, Mr. Nixon had said: "What this Government needed more than anything else was to be jolted into some appreciation of conditions in this Province and of public attitude toward them. Why, Mr. Speaker, you would never know they were the same outfit since the South Wellington result. They at once began to talk economy, salary reduction, curtailment of expenditures, and so on; but, withal, they cut a poor figure on the penitent bench, and they are not attacking the tremendous problems of the day in a manner or in a spirit that promises any improvement."

"I say in all sincerity that it would be decidedly in the public interest to dissolve this Legislature and call a general election after the present session."

Picturing the South Wellington campaign as "a most interesting situation," in which Ontario Cabinet Ministers had taken their chauffeurs along to help provide meeting quorums, which otherwise they would not have secured; in which "the Solicitor-General of all Canada" had gone from door to door begging the electors "to remain faithful to the good old Tory Party"; and in which T. J. Hannigan, Secretary of the Municipal Electrical Association, had "finally dropped the thin cloak of political neutrality" and had campaigned openly and only on the Conservative platforms, Mr. Nixon pointed to Mr. Munro and said:

"There sits my honorable friend, member for South Wellington, and the Premier says that his remarkable victory does not mean a thing. I say that it clearly indicates that the Government has lost the confidence of the people and does not possess the mandate given Mr. Ferguson."

In reply, Mr. Henry said: "True I did not do anything to assist the member for South Wellington coming here, but, now that he has entered these portals, it will be our responsibility to teach him something of the public life of the Province. A great deal has been said by two speakers this afternoon as to the significance of the by-election in South Wellington. I do not need to point out that since I obtained office, fifteen months or so ago, there have been several by-elections, and we have been endorsed in every one of them except the one in South Wellington. We are not prepared to promise that we are going to have an election forthwith, as desired by the member for Brant, for which he is so enthusiastic a crusader. And I would suggest to his friend immediately behind him (Mr. Munro) that if he is so sure of himself in South Wellington I have no objection to him resigning and trying out again."

And then the expenses-paying proposition followed.