

"Pretty hard," smiled Mr. Sinclair. "I know it's pretty hard," said the Premier, "to listen to the family organ."

"What year is that clipping?" asked Mr. Sinclair.

"1913," said Mr. Henry.

"B.C.," said Mr. Sinclair, and the House roared.

The Liberal apathy developed into open heckling. "Order!" called the Conservatives.

"I think we might have order," remonstrated Mr. Henry.

"Order!" called the Speaker.

"We were just debating," said Mr. Sinclair, blandly, "whether Mr. Hepburn made that speech at Preston or Oakville." Opposition benchers laughed loudly.

Produces Chicago Journal.

Here and then, the Prime Minister launched into his charges against Mr. Hepburn. Producing the Chicago journal, the pages of which are labelled "Reports on Municipally Owned Utility Properties," he said that it had now become Mr. Hepburn's textbook, and wondered if other copies had not been distributed around Ontario.

"Haven't got mine," replied Mr. Sinclair.

"Nor mine," said Mr. Nixon.

"I understand it costs \$5," said the Premier, by way of reply to an Opposition interrogation.

"Can't buy it over here, then, at that price," laughed Mr. Sinclair.

"I thought it might have been distributed to you," returned Mr. Henry. "This is Chicago's contribution to Mr. Hepburn's campaign fund."

"Where did you get yours?" asked Mr. Sinclair. "Did you pay five dollars for it?"

Quoting here and there from the document, Mr. Henry alleged that one could run across Mr. Hepburn's speeches "all through its pages." It was, he charged, used by the Liberal Leader and the Liberal Party "to attack the greatest public ownership undertaking in the world."

"You will find the information indispensable to yourself and to your assistants," the journal preached to prospective purchasers, Mr. Henry said.

"Mr. Hepburn got a copy for himself," said Mr. Henry; "why don't you people over there get one, too?"

"Falsehood," Says Premier.

An absolute falsehood from beginning to end, Mr. Henry defined the journal—from its figures about the Chippawa development to its statements as to industrial expansion in Ontario under Hydro. "And yet Mr. Hepburn will charge the Commission with being a political machine," said he. "And use the paper as the ritual on which to base his Milton speech."

Vigorously Mr. Henry disputed the claim that the Hydro had gone ahead more rapidly in Quebec under private ownership than in Ontario under public ownership—that industrial expansion here under Hydro was much below Quebec's industrial expansion. The increase in the latter regard in Ontario was two and a half times more than in Quebec, he asserted.

"And yet our young friend from Elgin," said he; "would have the people believe that such is not the case—will use this Chicago material when the true facts of the situation are always available to him if he wants them."

Premier Henry Speaks.

In opening his speech, Mr. Henry said: "Because of the tactics of certain citizens of this Province, I feel it is only fit and proper, as Premier, for me to reply to the whispering campaign which is being carried on, and which I assume will be carried on until a reply is given."

"It is not in connection with anything said in this House, or anything which is likely to be said in this House," he continued. "For some years I have been honored with the position of a director of the North American Life Assurance Company."

"A scurrilous sheet calling itself a financial magazine made a violent attack on this company when we applied to Ottawa for mutualization of the company, using the reserve funds to pay off the holders of guaranteed stock, and in this way place the company on the footing of a mutual company, where all the profits go to the policyholders."

"The present President, Thomas Bradshaw, with others, including myself, bought up the majority of the company's stock. I paid \$112 a share for eighty-three shares of stock only 20 per cent. paid. With the other directors, I was paid off at the rate of \$127. I had been receiving \$2 a share,

or less than 2 per cent., on my holdings.

"Whispering" Is Alleged.

"There has been whispering throughout this Province, and I could, if at all necessary, bring evidence to show that there is an inspired whispering campaign rather suggesting that I am something of a scallawag," he went on, "and that I made some \$50,000 out of this deal."

This explanation was made, the Premier said, "not so much for my personal protection as for the protection of the position I hold as the first citizen of the Province."

"I have heard all kinds of wild stories. I have been told that my own company was at the head of a Toronto milk combine. I have been, for twenty-five years, a dairy farmer, and I know nothing about these allegations. As far as our company is concerned, we have gone from strength to strength; we improved our position. Three years ago, when the peak prices came, we were good enough business men to know when to sell.

"We all know, if we want to be candid with ourselves, that there is a law of supply and demand. Today the demand is far less than the supply. The law of supply and demand will overtake all kinds of difficulties. I am just as sorry as any one, and just as anxious as any one to find a solution. But I know of no solution of the problem until we find a market for our dairy products—our cheese and butter and milk.

"Spying Out the Land."

"My colleagues and myself are quite willing to carry on," the Premier continued. "We have put our hands to the plow, irrespective of the criticism, the sniping and the desire of some not in league with us politically that they might have a general election. I know that those so thinking have not so much the welfare of the Province as their own political advancement at heart. I hear that they have picked out positions in the new Government. I don't know what position my honorable friend from Brant has been promised. But I do know that my honorable friend from North Grey has been spying out the land." He declared that D. J. Taylor, Progressive M.P.P. for North Grey, was thus destined for the Ministry of Game and Fisheries.

Mr. Nixon—It is as well to come to a definite decision.

Mr. Henry—Just as well.

"We must," the Premier continued, "live up to our obligations as regards revenue and expenditure and debt retirement." This declaration drew forth Conservative applause. "We anticipate," he said, "that we will provide sufficient revenue to balance the Budget in the ordinary way, and take care of some of the slack from last year's debt-retirement scheme."

Mr. Hepburn Twitted.

"The gentleman who wanders round the Province as the Liberal Leader is a happy leader, surely, to suggest that we are on the verge of bankruptcy; that we are unable to meet our obligations, and consequently cannot borrow any money," Premier Henry asserted. "This is a happy vein for a man who one day hopes to be Prime Minister of this Province." Declaring that those who had before occupied the seat in which he now sat—Mowat, Hardy and Ross—were not guilty of suggesting anything along that line, Mr. Henry wondered "how much confidence, how much backing he has." The speaker made the suggestion that Mr. Hepburn's leadership was confirmed, not by the will of the people of the Province at large, but at a banquet at which there was present a Senator "who is now under investigation."

The Liberal Leader, the Premier asserted, had besmirched the name of Liberalism in this country. "Where are we going?" he demanded. "In the opposite direction from Mr. Hepburn—that's where we are going!"

"I think that the Liberal Leader in this House is possibly to be excepted from this charge," Mr. Henry said.

"Which one?" Mr. Nixon asked.

Mr. Henry—The Leader of the party as we recognize him.

Taxation Questions.

"The people of this Province are not fools," he went on. "They know full well where their taxation comes from. We have no direct taxation, except two or three million dollars. Every tax is for some form of service. If you don't care to buy the service, you don't pay the tax."

Mr. Nixon—Did you ever hear the Tories talk that way when they were in the Opposition?

Mr. Henry—Not likely—it was so many years ago.

"I am proud that during this time of stress and strain the people have said so little," the Premier averred. "They are trying to live within their means and weather the situation. They are taking a common-sense view of the matter and are keeping patient. We hear no talk at all of communism. Some haven't the money to pay rent or to feed themselves, but they hide their plight as long as possible, and they are loath to ask the municipalities for assistance."

Highway Work in North.

"We feel that we will have adequate accommodation in Ontario for all who are afflicted with tuberculosis," he stated. Expressing his happiness that the Province had been able to carry on work on the trans-Canada highway so efficiently, he declared that there had been little friction in the camps, and that the men, many of them in the North for the first time, had entered well into the spirit of the enterprise.

"I don't know if it was my friend from Brant—" Mr. Henry went on.

"No, it wasn't," Mr. Nixon interpolated.

"Or some one else," the Premier corrected, "who spoke of the three-million-dollar monument in the East Block."

Mr. Nixon—What will the total expenditure be?

Mr. Henry—I am coming to that; I have the figures.

Mr. Nixon—Oh, I'm sorry.

The cost, Mr. Henry said, would be just under \$1,000,000, and the superstructure of the tower would cost \$300,000.

During recent weeks, he went on, no fewer than 600 men were working on the construction, in three shifts a week of two days each. It is possible, he said, that the stone-placing is being done in two shifts a week. Stressing the benefit given to the men who are being thus employed, and to their families, he said: "I don't imagine the people of this Province are grudging its cost."

"Political capital is being made on the other side of the House," he charged, "because we are doing something to relieve an unhappy condition."

Control of Expenditure.

On the subjects of the Highways and Education Departments, of which he had had charge, Premier Henry recalled that he had constantly sought to keep control, as far as he could, on highway expenditure. "Some of those sitting opposite me will remember the deputations that waited on me" The Prime Minister told of his frequent refusals of pleas. "The honorable member from South Waterloo (N. O. Hipel) well remembers it. The time that I first met him, I was seeking to hold the construction within bounds." He looked forward, he said, to considerable reduction in expenditure, anticipating the conference to be held next week. He urged, however, that it would be just as well not to close down all road activities, saying: "This is not the time for that to cease, or we will have an unemployment situation even worse than that at the present time."

"One of the greatest difficulties," he declared, "is to cut down expenditure

and yet maintain service for our boys and girls" The Premier emphasized the need for keeping up the present standard of education in the Province.

Liberal Attacks Expenditures.

After congratulating the new Ministers on the honors to which they had succeeded, Charles A. Robertson (Liberal, North Huron) declared that it would be "good business" to have a Minister of Mines appointed, to be responsible "for the oversight of the vast sums spent in grants." and ex-