

Mar. 16.

conceive of how conditions on the farm or in industrial centres can be improved by reduction of wages of the working classes of this country." He stated that such classes were those which spent their money to the benefit of the farmer.

Foshay Deal Criticized.

Mr. Taylor's references to Hydro follow, in part:

"When I state that it was, in my opinion, an improvident deal on the part of Hydro in the purchasing of the Foshay interests, let me draw to the attention of the Minister some of the assets of the Foshay that were considered by Hydro as assets at the time of purchasing, but which immediately after the system became the possession of the Hydro they proceeded to scrap. For instance, there was a valuation placed on the power development plant at the Sauble Falls and the transmission line from this plant to the Town of Wiarton, also the transmission system within that municipality. Hydro scrapped the entire outfit and linked up this portion of the system with Eugenia."

Declaring he was not endeavoring to show that these various systems were unnecessarily scrapped, Mr. Taylor contended that they must have been recognized by Hydro as of no value previous to Hydro's deal with the Foshay, and he felt that, this being the case and Foshay being in the hands of the receivers, the Hydro was in a position to drive a bargain with Foshay that would be more in accordance with the assets it was receiving.

"Maple Hill of No Value."

Mr. Taylor also referred to the Maple Hill plant as "of no value whatever to the Hydro interests, as it had no distribution system, supplied no municipality, but simply produced power for a little chopping mill." He proposed to ask that the correct figures on the deals before the Hydro estimates come down, be given to Owen Sound, Meaford, Chesley, Tara, or any municipality which might be interested.

Mr. Taylor drew the attention of the Hydro Chairman to one assertion he made in a letter to The Globe, of a recent date, in which letter he endeavored to correct some statements that were made by a citizen of North Bay, a Mr. Dezell, who had a few days previously forwarded to The Globe a long letter outlining what he believed to be the attitude of the farmers toward Hydro.

"The Chairman, in his reply to Mr. Dezell's letter, stated the class in which the greater number of farm users of Hydro preferred being classed was 2B or Class 3, which is classed as light farm service, with a maximum charge per month of \$2.50," he continued. "Now the bare statement, although possibly correct on the face of it, is more or less misleading because

I venture to say that less than 50 per cent. of the farm users of this class utilizing power today are not aware that this \$2.50 a month, which is the fulfilling of a pre-election promise of the present Government, does not actually cover the cost of that particular class of power to the user."

Hipel Questions Relief Plans.

"Neither the Speech from the Throne nor the reply to the Speech, nor the Prime Minister's addresses contained one inkling as to what this Government intends to do regarding unemployment after April 30," asserted Mr. Hipel. "There is no use in saying that good times are just around the corner. That is not the case—conditions are worse than a year ago, and we might as well face the facts now as later." Mr. Hipel cited a city in his own riding, "which has a population of less than 15,000 people. In this city there are over 300 families who haven't had one cent of cash coming into their homes for a month or more, and probably will not have for months to come," he declared, adding that, figuring five people to a family, there would be 1,500 people in that city who have not one cent of income in cash. He suggested that the Department of Highways undertake as a relief measure this coming fall the construction of footpaths alongside the Provincial highways in certain sections which are closely populated. Mr. Hipel also urged that the Government should consult the Federal authorities to find out what part they will take and how much they will contribute; then it should call a conference of representatives of all municipalities to discuss

what works could be undertaken during the coming fall and winter, having in mind works of a permanent nature.

Loan an "Outstanding Blunder."

Declaring that Mr. Elliott was modest over the \$25,000,000 loan, Mr. Hipel said: "I would go one step further and say that it will be written in history as one of the outstanding blunders of the Henry Government, and can be classed as a Government glorification loan—a loan which simply handed a present, to the extent of over \$1,000,000, chiefly to the largest money lenders and at the expense of the taxpayers of the Province."

Rural Depopulation Cited.

"Is it any wonder there is unemployment?" asked Mr. Mackay. "The administration of the basic industry is almost wholly centralized in Queen's Park, that confidence is shaken to such an extent that census returns from Ottawa show a decrease of 6,748 occupied farms, or 3.2 per cent., in Ontario in the last ten years when times were at their best, and the number of vacant farms in the Dominion, 32,767." He declared weed inspection, so far as eradication of weeds is concerned, was a decided failure under the present act. Success in weed eradication was wholly due to the farmer himself and mostly by cultivation. Inspectors took the method of least resistance—the highways—for "they know the wage received for weed cutting is much more than the farmer 'who is always employed' can make on the farm. He knows, too, that the Government pays 40 per cent. of this money and will not receive the same censure from the ratepayers."