

Mar. 17.

MEMBER IS LINKED WITH 'PEG UPRISING IN HOGARTH CHARGE

Port Arthur Tory Declares Hutchinson, Labor M.P.P., Only Sure of Communists' Vote in His District

DEBATE WIND-UP SOUGHT TONIGHT

Brig.-Gen. Don Hogarth, Conservative member for Port Arthur, last night charged before the Ontario Legislature that Earl Hutchinson (Labor, Kenora) was connected with the Winnipeg uprising against constitutional authority, and that the only vote he can now be 100 per cent. sure of getting in his electoral district is that of the Communists.

"And, fortunately," added the General, while the silence in the House became electric, "the number of Communists in the District of Kenora is negligible."

General Hogarth's charge, serious in its nature and dramatic in the manner in which it was levelled, came at a quarter of midnight, after a long, dragging day in Budget debate, and quickened the pulse of benches and galleries to a point hitherto un-reached this session.

Text of His Remarks.

His remarks regarding Mr. Hutchinson were as follows:

"Last year my honorable friend made some statements concerning Communists in Northern Ontario, and I took occasion to reply to him on that occasion," said General Hogarth. "I thought at the time that the member for Kenora had taken his stand on the Communist question in the exuberance of youth. But I later learned that he had been connected with the uprising against constituted authority in Winnipeg in 1919.

"My honorable friend, in the debate, told of residents in his district going to Russia. He quoted from a letter from one man who had gone to the Soviet, in which the latter said how glad he was he left Canada. The honorable member for Kenora should know the city and Provincial police have been very active in getting rid of Communists at the Head of the Lakes.

Sorry Not in Seat.

"I am sorry the member for Kenora is not in his seat tonight, for there are some things which I will not now say in view of his absence. I happen to have contact almost daily with electors of the Kenora District, and I say now that, even were he to get the support of the Liberal and the Conservative organizations, the only vote he can be sure of receiving 100 per cent. would be the Communist vote."

Eleven speakers, Russell Nesbitt (Conservative, Bracondale-Toronto), T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin), Louis Cote (Conservative, South Ottawa), W. G. Medd (Progressive, South Huron), E. J. Murphy (Conservative, St. Patrick's-Toronto), J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry), F. J. Reid (Conservative, West Windsor), William Newman (Liberal, North Victoria), General Hogarth, T. A. Blakelock (Liberal, Halton), and A. Holly Acres (Conservative, Carlton), took part in the debate, which continued after midnight for two hours, in an effort to expedite House business to a stage where the Leaders will be in a position to wind up tonight, and the House will be able to prorogue a week from today.

"A Divided Party."

Mr. Slack told the House that it ill became the Prime Minister to charge the Opposition groups with lack of union within their ranks when the Conservative Party was no united party at the present time. Jeers

from the Tory benches greeted the Dufferin member's remark.

"Laugh all you like," retorted Mr. Slack, "but let me repeat that you are a divided party. Where do you stand on beer by the glass at the present moment? I understand that the Premier has stated that he is not in favor of beer by the glass, and I also understand that 75 per cent. of his followers have pledged themselves to their constituencies to support it." More jeers.

"Well, I can at least say that this group of ours is united on that question," declared Mr. Slack.

"How many of you?" cracked Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests.

"There will be a lot more of us here after the next election," Mr. Slack retorted.

As "constructive suggestions in this time of great depression," the Dufferin member urged the Government to close up all its liquor stores; absolutely stop the sale of liquor; and by so doing save a million dollars a week for diversion to better and wiser channels.

Crime to Increase Taxes.

Mr. Slack claimed that the Government was "running around in circles" on its policy of municipal relief; severely criticized the Treasurer for falling down on his ordinary debt-retirement obligations; and charged that it was "a crime" to levy further taxes on the people at this time of distress.

Not since 1923, he alleged, had the Hydro undertaken one major development in Ontario. Instead of developing power within the Province, it had gone to Quebec for power—a policy which, eventually, he claimed, would spell disaster for the great public-owned enterprise. The statement drew prompt and general denial from the Treasury benches. Mr. Finlayson challenged the speaker to state where power could be developed in Ontario at the present time. Mr. Slack said, "Lots of places." "Where?" asked Mr. Finlayson. "In the North," came the reply. "Engineers tell me there is lots of power to be developed up there." Mr. Finlayson claimed familiarity with the north, and that no such powers existed.

"How about the Abitibi canyon?" asked Mr. Slack.

"That is being developed," said Mr. Finlayson.

Transmission Not Practical.

"And as we all know," said Premier Henry, "it isn't practical to bring that power, all that distance, to Southern Ontario."

Mr. Cooke (Hydro Chairman) interjected the statement that the second largest power development in Ontario had been undertaken in Ontario since 1923—the Chats Falls development; and that a second major development, at Alexandria Landing, had also got under way in the period referred to by Mr. Slack.

"That's only a small development," argued Mr. Slack.

Mr. Cote, in an address characteristically eloquent, commended the Government's relief policy, claiming that in his opinion it had been administered entirely non-politically. A portion of moneys to be devoted in future to meet unemployment conditions should, he felt, be used in establishing jobless men on old farms. Not too marked success had been registered in the past with such settlement policies, but he believed that much good could now be accomplished in this way if properly supervised and directed.

"Not Taxed at All."

Since the Conservative Government came into power, stressed Mr. Medd, ordinary expenditures had risen from \$41,361,439.92 in 1923 to \$54,846,994.28 in 1931. He said that in addition some \$2,700,000 due on the debt-retiring scheme is not included for the past year. Although it was patent that the people had not the money, "this Government can spend and then tax the people to meet the ex-

penditures—and then follow up by telling them: 'Oh, you're not taxed at all; you are just paying for services rendered.'"

That Mr. Elliott might be thinking too much about potatoes and too little of the welfare of the Province, was the thought put forth by Mr. Murphy. He went on to suggest that the member for North Bruce should carry his simile to a logical end and take whatsoever indemnity he might earn in the form of bags of potatoes.

Strong Indian Flavor.

That a stranger hearing a debate in the Legislature on Hydro, with names such as Beauharnois, Chippawa, Wahnipitae and Niagara being bandied about, might think he was in an Indian reservation, was the whimsical thought of Mr. Reid.

"You can't lead a party in the House without a seat," Mr. Reid said of Mitchell Hepburn. "After our chief gets through with him he will look like Mahatma Gandhi standing in a blizzard."

It is not the farmer who is suffering in this country, but it is the man in middle life in the cities today who is suffering, Mr. Reid said. "When your hair is turned to silver, try and get yourself a job," the member, himself silvery haired, paraphrased. "That man can't eat; the farmer can do that."

"The man responsible for the state of this country today is mass production and the scientific engineer," he went on. "Kings, premiers, every one, are under his control."

Use of Word Protested.

Not content with stirring the atmosphere of the House with his Hydro

sallies, Mr. Sangster took the Government severely to task on its road expenditures in the united counties, and in so doing used the word "lousy" to emphasize one particular bit of his general condemnation. Instantly a Conservative bencher called out: "Not parliamentary."

"I apologize, Mr. Speaker," declared Mr. Sangster, "I must have learned that word from somebody across the House."

The Glengarry member charged that what the united counties had to pay for roads was out of all proportion to the benefits they derived from them, and when the Prime Minister inquired whether the honorable member (Mr. Sangster) would like to have the highway down there barricaded just outside his home town so that traffic could not come in, Mr. Sangster replied: "You might as well have. You put Lancaster out of the picture with a cut-off, and the road's only good now for the classy clique to ride on."

The great value to Ontario of her vast mineral wealth, especially in gold and radium, and of her tourist attractions, was stressed by Mr. Newman. Though Mr. Elliott was scorned for measuring the wealth of Canada in her commodities, yet her wealth did, in very fact, exist in the form of wheat and of pulp and of butter, he declared.

"I think it will be a very good thing for the North country when Hydro is in control of the whole situation," General Hogarth declared, in discussing the relationship between the North country and Hydro.

Mr. Blackstock deplored the new tax on 25-cent amusement tickets, and also felt that the annual expenditure on the maintenance of the Provincial Police force could well be reduced by 25 per cent. He wondered whether it was really necessary to have so many Sheriffs, and suggested that a saving could be effected by a diminution of their numbers.

"The proper place for a man in public life is on this floor," the Prime Minister replied to a challenge to him by Mr. Blackstock to meet Mr. Hepburn on a public platform.

"I don't doubt you'll see him here in another year or two," Mr. Blackstock replied.