

March 10.

Theft, Pay-Padding In Northern Work Charged by M.P.P.

Hutchinson Blames Political Patronage for Conditions on Relief Projects and Promises to Supply Names

HEPBURN IS BARRED IN HOUSE, IS CLAIM

Asserting that theft, padding of payrolls and incompetence were rife on relief projects in Northern Ontario, Earl Hutchinson, the sole Labor member in the Legislature, yesterday startled the members with his charges, and roused the ire of Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests. After a warm clash with the Minister, the Kenora member, who refused to retract, promised to provide names of those involved, and the details of the cases he mentioned.

Political patronage and political machinery were responsible for the state of affairs, he stated, and men were given positions without regard to their qualifications. The whole system of the "dole" and "slave wages" paid to the men on the trans-Canada highway were sapping the morale of those who were unfortunate enough to have to accept them, he said.

Scores Hepburn and Policies.

Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Minister of Highways, who followed Mr. Hutchinson, spent about five minutes of his time on matters affecting his department. About ten minutes were spent on dealing with the general Provincial situation, and the remainder of an hour was used by the Minister in assailing Mitchell F. Hepburn, Ontario Liberal Leader, and his policies.

D. M. Ross (Progressive, Oxford South), who opened the debate, favored reducing the number of Cabinet Ministers to seven, and the number of Provincial constituencies to 82, using the same boundaries as the Federal ridings, while C. R. Harrison (Conservative, Nipissing) refuted charges of maladministration of relief in the North country.

Mr. Hutchinson launched into his charges of maladministration of relief by stating that the country was suffering too much from partyism and patronage.

"In some instances the guilty carefully aid a higher-up to help himself and then claim and secure immunity through fear of the resulting scandal that exposure to public gaze of the true situation would cause," he said. "Thefts of timber are not rare, thefts of dynamite have been known as well as of other supplies; padding of payrolls and just plain incompetence make up huge Governmental budgets.

Cites Cases as Proof.

"For instance, when you see a timekeeper who has been successively dismissed from the Customs Department, the Postoffice and the Liquor Control Board for theft and he is able to retain his job and the foreman who reported his irregularities is dropped out, and in another case an inspector refuses to sign departmental reports which were not in accord with the facts, and he is dismissed without trial or investigation; when you find that a man who discovered a shortage in accounts and was able to prove who took the money was dismissed from the service, and the guilty retained in the service, then I say there is something rotten in Ontario," said Mr. Hutchinson.

At this point Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, rose to his feet, demanding that names and particulars be given. These were promised, and Mr. Fin-

layson said they would be fully investigated.

Patronage Ruining Ontario.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that one man in his town, when accused of theft, openly boasted: "Well, if I go to jail, some higher-ups will go, too." It was the patronage system running full blast that was ruining Ontario today.

"That causes deficits and slavery wages," he said. "Therefore, I support the amendment to the amendment, and I can vote with the honorable member from Brant. But I warn him not to build up a crooked machine should he succeed to power, or I'll have to take up the battle-axe again and wreck it."

Dealing with the railway situation, Mr. Hutchinson said: "Prohibitive tariff walls, such as exist in Canada now, must lead to decreasing traffic on the railways. They are equipped to handle freight tonnage in very large quantities, but, due mainly to the setting up of trade barriers in the form of high tariffs, we have now little export trade to haul, with the result that we have fewer men employed on the railways than for many years."

Dealing with the trans-Canada road camps, the Labor member said the men were being paid only 19 cents a day, while a horse was earning 30 cents a day. "Probably it was considered that a horse had more sense than the man anyway, as it at least didn't vote Tory in 1930," he commented.

While it had been said that there was no compulsion in getting men to go to these camps, it was either this or the dole for them, and most men wanted to work, he pointed out. "I want to say here and now that the horse wasn't overpaid. The member from South Renfrew was exactly correct. It is slavery."

As regards Mr. Hepburn, Mr. Hutchinson stated that he had found the Liberal Leader was usually able to support any charges he had made, and that he was right in predicting the legal fees paid to W. N. Tilley, K.C., since 1926.

Time for Retrenchment.

Mr. Macaulay opened his remarks by dealing with suggestions made by Mr. Ross to eliminate glaring headlights and troubles with truck licenses: "I may say that I have been very reluctant to add to the numbers of inspectors. I feel that the time has come when there should be no more additions."

Hon. Harry Nixon (Progressive Leader)—Do not the Provincial Police accept the responsibility for this work?

Mr. Macaulay—Yes, they have certain powers.

Mr. Baxter (Liberal, Oxford South)—Do not the police in towns and cities have the same powers?

Mr. Macaulay admitted that they did have. "We continually receive suggestions, but when they are traced down all seem to lead to spending more money and appointing more people. Democracy has gone far enough toward bureaucracy. This Government feels that in a time of depression it should not add to, but rather eliminate those who are not required."

The Minister of Highways, criticizing the speech made by Dr. L. J. Simpson (Liberal, Simcoe Centre) on Tuesday, remarked: "He said the attacks on Mr. Hepburn were cowardly, contemptible and unsportsmanlike. This is very brisk language, and in fact might almost be ruled out as unparliamentary. But it gives me an opportunity to restate the view held by many voters outside of this House.

Would Never Be Premier.

"Their view is that the real Leader of the Liberal Party should be sitting in this House, with his position in the House and his seat at stake whenever he makes statements of policy or expresses his views on any

subject. Mr. Hepburn has dodged that responsibility deliberately. It is common knowledge that there is a determination on the part of a few business men of this Province who still support the Liberal Party in Provincial affairs that, if by any chance the party were victorious, Mr. Hepburn would never fill the seat of Premier.

"At this very moment there is a group of Toronto Liberals studying the situation, determined to replace Mr. Hepburn if and when the Liberal Party has any chance to form a Government.

"This is well known to the board of strategy of the Liberal Party. They are willing to have Mr. Hepburn lead a forlorn hope, but will see to it that he is not there as leader if they ever get in sight of the promised land. That is why they do not provide him with a seat in this House," declared Mr. Macaulay.

Asked to Give Names.

Mr. Blakelock (Liberal, Halton)—Would the Minister give the names of these Toronto Liberals?

Mr. Macaulay—The list is too long. I will make it out and give it to them. I noticed that the member

from Simcoe Centre whispered that to the Speaker.

Mr. Simpson—May I say positively that I did not. I said something entirely different.

Mr. Macaulay then attacked some of the public utterances of Mr. Hepburn, saying: "The Liberal member from Simcoe Centre is the first Liberal member of this House I have heard identify himself with Mr. Hepburn's 'swing to the left,' which was first heard when a by-election was pending in West York, when an appeal was going to be made to the predominating element in that riding, the industrial and manual laborers.

"At that time, he said, he would take from the millionaires of the country the wealth they had taken from the people, by capital levy. I have not noticed any such resolution from any section of the Liberal Party in this House. There was a bill brought up the other day called the 'supertax' whereby there was to be an increased tax on incomes of more than \$10,000 a year. Not a Liberal in this House raised his voice either for or against it, even Mr. Hepburn's own personal emissary and advance agent, the member from Brant, did not open his mouth."

"It was only a gesture," interposed Mr. Nixon.

"There was a chance for them to translate into action the high-sounding radical utterances on the hustings in the working-class district. Why did they not open their mouths on that question?" asked Mr. Macaulay. "Because the Liberal Party is split right down the middle on that question. The Toronto Star and Mr. Hepburn are for discriminatory taxation against the well-to-do, while The Globe and the orthodox wing of Liberalism fight it at every chance they get."

Only Seven in Cabinet.

D. M. Ross (Progressive, Oxford North) declared he considered the Cabinet could very well get along with seven Ministers. The President of the United States had only ten members in his Cabinet, and he had far graver problems to contend with, Mr. Ross said. The Speaker came out flat-footed for a reduction in the membership of the Ontario House to 82, to coincide with the representation from this Province at Ottawa.

He asserted that money had too high a place in life today, "and it controls the Government so much it affects our legislation"; agreed with Elmore Philpott that money spent on direct relief should be used to provide work for men; asked Government action in the milk-price question and into the meat packing industry, which he referred to as "another great combine"; criticized the cost of government in relationship to revenue; reviewed the plight of the farming industry; urged Provincial aid to the Barrie packing plant; and finally averred that residents by the thousands in urban ridings took no interest in their Province, and therefore should not have a vote.

The Progressive member compared farm prices with the cost of operating a farm and illustrated by saying that a tax of \$308 three years ago could be met by the proceeds of four fat hogs, but at the present time eighteen fat hogs would be required to pay that same tax. "So long as