

some previous date, no doubt under their debt-retiring scheme, and in this year have not only been obliged to abandon their scheme of debt retirement, but have apparently robbed the already existing fund, if such fund exists, to the extent of over half a million dollars."

Luxury in Furnishings.

Charging the Government with expending money on luxurious furnishings, Mr. Taylor compared the plight of industry, agriculture and homeowners with what the Administration had done toward economy.

He cited, after reference to the public accounts, the purchase of a clock and mirror—which Premier Henry said was "picked up" for the Speaker's Chambers—at a cost of \$791.94; and some antique furniture at \$650. He then quoted at length from newspaper articles showing the luxuriousness of the Conservative members' lounging-room, with its recently installed mahogany tables and chairs and soft-cushioned chesterfields.

Regarding the clock, Mr. Taylor wondered if it was The Globe's "Gallery Clock" which they were working under. But as to the furniture in the Government members' room, Mr. Taylor thought that the Opposition members would have the call on it after next election.

Referring to Hydro, the member continued:

Information Demanded.

"We are criticized from time to time, and I mean by 'we' the members on this side of the House, and classed as being antagonistic to this great public undertaking. Now I know of no stand that those who claim to be such friends of Hydro could take that would create more suspicion in the minds of the general public than all was not well with Hydro than to be continuously withholding information that the public certainly will feel they are entitled to have. Regarding the salary, for instance, of Mr. Gaby, it is common rumor that it has now reached some \$35,000 a year, and also it is rumored that it has been increased within the last year from \$25,000 to the present figure. Now, I, like the average Ontario taxpayer, if we are denied this information, would naturally put considerable reliance on these rumors and, personally, I am much of the same opinion concerning the salaries of these high-paid officials as the member from North Waterloo (Mr. Tweed), when he states that the heads of these various Commissions or officials are not entitled to salaries in excess of that paid the first citizen of this Province, the Prime Minister."

Conversion Loan.

After reviewing the plight of the farmer, which, he stated, had greatly come about through the high cost of government, Mr. Newman went on to declare for his conversion loan. He said:

"There is one thing they have done, and that is they have continued to pay a high rate of interest to the man who is fortunate enough to have Government bonds, and the first thing that should be done—and it should be done before this Parliament prorogues—and that is call for a conversion loan and change of interest from what it is to at least 2 per cent.

"Following this idea out still further, it is now proposed that we shall pay a lower rate of interest on deposits that are in our banks, which again carries on that vicious method of destroying the buying power of our poor citizen, and thereby destroying the home market for the basic products of our Province.

"Because we have been paying a higher rate of interest on Government bonds, we have, of necessity, made a prohibitive rate of interest on any money loaned to the basic indus-

tries. This prohibitive rate of interest, coupled with the low price of basic products, is holding back men who would venture to employ people if money was not so costly.

"Now, I hear some one say: 'But then you cannot borrow any more money, and capital will flow to the place where it can get the highest interest.'

Must Stop Borrowing.

"That is very true, but, Mr. Speaker, we have come to a time when we must stop borrowing money and going in debt. We are only putting ourselves into the position of a bigger fall when that time comes, and come it will. This Province cannot go into debt as it has been doing and expect to carry on.

"What chance has a farmer? What chance has a wheat-grower, a dairyman or a hog-raiser or a business man or lumberman or a captain of industry with prices as they are at the present time, and the Government bonds drawing 5 per cent.? You will say to me, 'But you made a bargain with those people and you can't break it.' Very true, but these are times when a Government is justified in appealing to the patriotic and good common sense of our financial people to come across with a rate of interest that will enable them to handle the basic industries of this country and to start to move their wheels again. If Government bonds were down to 2 per cent. and you could make it possible for the farmer to begin to have a new lease of life, your manufacturers could begin to move and men could be employed where today they cannot be employed because every time you use them the further you are going hopelessly in debt.

"To the man who refuses to accept the conversion loan, to such a man the Government has the power, and should use it, to tax his interest, so that it could be brought down to the level of 2 per cent. This, to my mind, Mr. Speaker, is the first step necessary for this Government, and every other Government in this Dominion of Canada to do today."

Thomas P. Murray (Liberal, Renfrew South) woke up a sleepy House with one of his witty Irish discourses after the witching hour had passed, but took time in a serious vein to declare that the present Government was the most inefficient the Province had ever had.

Immigration Costs.

Only 372 immigrants had come into Ontario as a result of an expenditure of \$230,000 on immigration officials and offices outside of Ontario, during the past three years, declared J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry), who arose to speak in the Legislature this morning at 12.45. This worked out at a cost of about \$618 per immigrant. In addition, some \$35,000 had been spent in salaries of immigration officials at Queen's Park.

Premier Henry interrupted to say that the immigration office in London, England, was a misnomer, stating it was really for trade purposes and immigration was only a sideline.

"Last year the Hydro spent \$18,656 on publicity. I thought it got enough publicity through John Aird Jr., declared Mr. Sangster, amid laughter.

He attacked the principle of making farmers pay higher rates for Hydro service and declared that if they were given lower rates the Hydro would receive greater revenue, as they would be able to afford it.

Asked by Mr. Challies if he was in favor taxing Hydro, Mr. Sangster replied in the affirmative.

Dr. G. V. Harcourt (Conservative, Parry Sound) urged an investigation into the price of wool. The spinning wheel, he said, apparently was the logical solution of present difficulties.

Cemetery Act Commissions Are Questioned by Slack

T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin) questioned the Ministry in the Ontario Legislature yesterday on the number of Commissions set up by the Government under the Cemetery Act. The member also wants to know the number of counties where no appointments have been made; what action the Department of Health has taken to compel compliance with the act where no local action was taken; and inquiries as to Chairmen appointed and if fees and expenses are allowable under the regulations. The Dufferin Progressive tabled another question dealing with the Queen Victoria and Niagara Falls Park Commission as to appointments made; the remuneration and expenses; what the Government has contributed to the Commission and what are the revenues from the parks.

PRICE WOULD AMEND BULK SALES ACT

Austin Smith Proposes Change in Division Court Act

Attorney-General Price introduced the expected amendment to the Bulk Sales Act in the Ontario Legislature yesterday. Colonel Price explained that a great many sales had been made by bankrupt debtors with the connivance of one or two creditors, who benefited, while the remaining creditors suffered great losses. The amendments would prohibit such sales, he stated, and assure the creditors of bankrupt firms that they would all receive a fair share of the remaining assets.

Austin Smith (Conservative, Essex South) introduced an amendment to Section 154 of the Division Court Act which would give the Judge power to act on all claims conflicting with a garnishee order. As the law stands now the garnishee may have priority over other claims and, even if the Judge decided that the garnishee did not hold, he has not power to settle others, which would have to go to court at added expense to the creditor.