

TORIES POUND DESKS AS PARTY SPEAKERS EXTOL GOVERNMENT

Opposition Groups, in Joint Caucus, Decide on Policy

HOUSE IS ADJOURNED

Tribute Paid to Memory of Members Taken by Death

Hearty defense of Conservative stewardship kept Government members thumping their desks in the Legislature yesterday when Arthur Ellis (Ottawa South) moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Seconding was H. J. Davis (Elgin East), with a broad review of the agricultural situation and suggestions for closer co-operation between Administration and farmer.

It was the first day of debate in the Legislature's last session, and it brought a good attendance to benches and galleries. At the close the House adjourned to Monday in respect for the memory of five members, including two Ministers of the Crown, who had passed on since Ontario's Parliament last convened.

All-Opposition Caucus.

Party politics, as such, centred during the day on the change in Liberal leadership. In conference early in the afternoon, Liberals, Progressive Leader Harry Nixon and the solitary Laborite, Earl Hutchinson, sat for an hour and a half and emerged with reports of complete agreement and the decision to hold frequent all-Opposition meetings at the call of the leaders. The understanding is that the initial attack on the Government will be so arranged that a Liberal no-confidence amendment to the Speech will be supplemented with a Progressive subamendment.

Liberal Leader Mitchell F. Hepburn was present at the conference, but had no statement to make at its conclusion.

W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., ousted Liberal Leader, was in his new, second-row seat in the chamber, while his ex-followers met in a committee room before the day's sitting. He had left his seat later, when Arthur Ellis, moving the Address, congratulated Dr. G. A. McQuibban on his elevation to Liberal command in the House, and then added a second edge to his compliments when he congratulated Mr. Sinclair, too, for his ability to "put the interests of the people above party."

Mr. Ellis praised Mr. Sinclair for work that brought him dism leadership." Recalling an ex-chieftain's decision on co-operation with the Governor for the Province's good, Mr. Sinclair's definition of policy and ideals.

"It is a pleasant thing," commented the Ottawa Conservative, "to find that some one believes that the first and foremost duty of one in political life is to do the utmost that lies within his power for the benefit of the people, and to do everything he can to alleviate the sufferings of the people of this Province; and it is perhaps a somewhat regrettable thing in public life to find here and there men who have not the outlook of the member for South Ontario; he has my sincere respect, and a very great admiration for having the courage of his own convictions—putting the people of this Province above his party, and above his own personal political ambitions."

Tribute to Members.

Tributes to the memory of Hon. Dr. J. D. Monteith, Hon. E. A. Dunlop, F. W. Elliott, Phil J. Henry and F. J. Skinner, were coupled with the suggestion that trying duties during the past years had tended to shorten their years. Each of the three party leaders, Premier Henry, Dr. McQuibban and Mr. Nixon, rose, and briefly expressed the loss which the Legislature and the Province suffered in the death of the five members.

Remarking, as he moved adjournment until Monday in their respect, that the death of so many members during one recess was unusual, the Prime Minister cited the records and abilities of the deceased men. Of the late Minister of Public Works, he said: "I haven't any doubt that Dr. Monteith's labor in the department throughout the past three years was a trying one, and had the effect of shortening his years."

Dr. McQuibban stated: "It does appear that the exigencies of public life must take a terrible toll of those who devote their lives to the public." And Mr. Nixon, concurring in the tributes, stated that "these men have embodied all that is best in the public life of the nation."

Conservatives Praised.

In campaign-speech style, Mr. Ellis enumerated Conservative achievements during his party's long tenure of office. First and foremost, he said, was Hydro, fathered and successfully developed by Conservatives; then the last four years' relief measures, direct payments to the poor, assistance to bankrupt municipalities, creation of public works, passage of the Mortgage and Purchasers Act for home owners' protection; social legislation, such as old-age pensions and the Workmen's Compensation Act; speedy retribution brought to "bucketing" brokers; reduction in Provincial expenditure when the need came, and, finally, successful flotation of the greatest bond issue in the Province's history.

Regarding Hydro, Mr. Ellis cited drastic reduction in power rates which had followed on introduction of public ownership in Ontario cities. The most striking example was Ottawa's drop from seven cents per kilowatt hour, under a private corporation, to nine-tenths of a cent.

Successful Competition.

"What is the rate charged there by the private corporation?" inquired Progressive Leader Nixon.

"The same, and if it were not the private corporation would have been in the hands of the receiver long ago," said Mr. Ellis. "The publicly owned enterprise has been able to compete most successfully indeed with the large private corporation."

Comparing rates in Ontario, Quebec and the United States, Mr. Ellis noted that per 300 kilowatt hours Toronto paid \$3.78; Montreal, \$8; Detroit, \$11.94; and Niagara Falls, N.Y., \$8.64.

Hydro's enemies and critics were referred to by Mr. Ellis. He recalled the Gregory Commission of 1924, and quoted The Globe to prove, he claimed, how baseless were the charges then examined. The more recent Royal Commission had given Hydro an equally clean bill.

"I believe," he continued, "that it is a wonderful thing for this Province to have had a public utility of this kind in existence for so many years and to have a record such as the Hydro-Electric Power Commission has today."

Premier Lauded.

Launching then into a review of Conservative accomplishments before and during the depression, Mr. Ellis closed with high tribute to Premier Henry. "I believe," he said, as Conservatives pounded their benches, "that the people of this Province today trust and hope that he will occupy the position of Premier for many years yet to come."

Dr. Davis, as seconder, enumerated recent agricultural advances, commented on the credit due the achievements, help and consideration of the Provincial and Dominion Governments lauded the work of Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, and suggested solutions to several agricultural problems.

In the latter connection Dr. Davis urged that the Government compensate the farmer trying to improve his breed of cattle by getting rid of cows that fail to come up to necessary standards. Remarking that the farmer will find it more profitable to unload such animals on unsuspecting buyers rather than ship them to the stock yards, the member suggested Government compensation sufficient to make the sale to the packers more attractive.

Greater co-operation between farmer, cheese maker, buyer and the Government, and increased care in regard to temperature and cleanliness of milk and in the making of cheese, were suggested as solutions to the dairy problem. Dr. Davis maintained that Canadian farmers were rapidly losing their export trade in dairy products to New Zealand and Australia, and stated that "drastic steps should be taken to rectify it as far as Ontario is concerned."

Export of bacon under a single brand, to the tremendous but par-

ticular British market opened by the Ottawa quotas was criticized. Commenting that graded Ontario apples and honey of high quality commanded the highest prices, Dr. Davis stated: "I feel that it would be to our great advantage to have our bacon carefully graded before it reaches the world market." The best grade, he explained, "could then compete on an equal footing with countries that are continually beating us in price." Increased care in shipping and packing was also recommended.

The member from Elgin East also brought to the Legislature's attention rural criticism of last year's Apple Maggot Bill, and the grading of hogs on the hoof. Terming the first bill "splendid but drastic," he suggested that "there must be many small orchards in good condition and that they are quite a source of revenue to the farmer, that are in danger of being wiped out because owing to these strenuous times he is unable properly to spray in order to meet the requirements." Grading of hogs "on the rail" was suggested as an alternative to grading on the hoof.

Dr. Davis renewed his plea for reforestation and a more systematic tree-planting policy in the older districts of the Province. The efforts of the Government to create new markets for farm products to replace the market lost in the United States, the improved conditions in the honey, tobacco, local wheat and vegetable industries, and the work of the Farm Loan Department and the Department of Game and Fisheries were commended. In conclusion, he remarked on the continued progress of rural Hydro and the assistance given by the Government to the women's institutes.

New Legislation.

First reading was given yesterday to initial items of legislation to come before the Legislature.

Under an amendment to the Trustees Act, proposed by Attorney-General Price, a wider list of securities is allowed trustees for investment purposes. Virtually all bonds and debentures of the various Governments, municipalities and school boards, so long as they have Federal or Provincial guarantees, are now included in the eligible list.

Another item from Colonel Price, amending the Public Authorities' Protection Act, extends protection to Sheriffs and Sheriffs' officers, so that actions against them and arising from performance of their duties, must be commenced within six weeks.

A bill ratifying transfer to the Province of ten acres in Bertie Township, scene of the Battle of Ridgeway, was sponsored by Premier Henry, and received first reading. This historic tract of land was given to the Province by Colonel Alexander Fraser of Toronto.

The Tile Drainage Act is being amended to ensure that the Provincial Treasury receives due notice of intended drainage works, so that arrangements for financing purchase of debentures may be made at the proper time. Under the present statute, it was explained, the Treasury is left in doubt as to how it may be called on to assist municipalities.