

The Premier's final topic was relief administration. He recounted the combined outlays of Dominion, Province and municipalities: 1930-31, \$14,000,000 in public works and \$5,000,000 in direct relief; 1931-32, \$14,000,000 in public works and \$24,000,000 in direct relief; 1932-33, a total of \$31,800,000, mostly in direct payments, following the decision of the Dominion and Provinces to discontinue the works system. Total payments over the three-year period were approximately \$31,500,000 by the Province, \$28,500,000 by the Dominion and \$29,000,000 by the municipalities.

The burden was decreasing this year, said Mr. Henry. In March of 1933 there had been 423,000 persons on relief in the Province; in November 396,000, and in December about 400,000. He was glad to say that there had been a definite improvement, and this was borne out by the rise in the Dominion employment index from 77.9 in December, 1932, to 87.2 in December, 1933. All lines were affected—textiles, steel, agriculture, leather, lumbering, even construction.

Progress Claimed.

"I appreciate," continued the Premier, "that we have a long distance to go before we are satisfied with the number of persons in the unemployed class. Many, of course, never are continuously employed, and are satisfied with a certain number of months' work in the year. But I am proud to report this progress in difficult times. As we move into spring and summer, I am confident that there will be many, out of work for two or three years, who will find continuous jobs, and so take care of themselves and their families, the ambition, I am pleased to say, of the vast majority of the people in this Province. There is a brighter side to the picture than during many months past.

"We of the Government are confident we are carrying on to the full satisfaction of the people of this Province, in spite of the efforts of our friends opposite with a board of strategy in some anteroom feeding them ideas." He further twitted the Liberal command with: "I don't know whether that board of strategy has risen to the height of a brain trust just yet.

"I don't quite know what is their present tendency, swinging now to the left, now another way. For ourselves, let me tell them that we swing to the right and with the right."

Mr. Henry then moved his sub-amendment.

Finances Criticized.

When the thumping which followed the Premier's motion of sub-amendment had died down, Charles A. Robertson, Liberal Whip and member for Huron North, took up the Opposition cudgels with a speech stressing rural criticism of governmental finance. Mr. Robertson stated as his first premise: "I am convinced we have no overproduction of commodities, but rather an underproduction of purchasing power." Money he defined as something which, "like our utilities, should still be the servant of the people, and instead it is our master."

Shifting to more immediate ground, the Liberal Whip said of the recent bond flotation: "Such financing is draining the country of cash that should be used for legitimate business, for industry, for building and for the production of commodities."

The effects of the loan had been far-reaching. Mr. Robertson asserted, and it had become almost impossible for a man to get the legitimate credit he needed. "With the present interest we have today, I am convinced we are never going to be able to pay our mortgage debt and let business expand as it should," the member from Huron North declared. "I think I am not overstating the truth," he said, "when I say that this Government has mortgaged our future, dissipated our resources and throttled industry by extravagance and mismanagement."

Too Free Spending Alleged.

Referring to a recent speech to the York County Council in which the Premier advised supervision of certain local expenditures, the Liberal Whip outlined what he charged were Government extravagances in public building and road building. "The supervision the Premier speaks of has been entirely lacking. It was, 'Ask and ye shall receive,'" the Liberal Whip claimed. Referring to the Minister of Welfare, he charged that, although the Old Age Pensions Act had been put on in good faith, "too many abuses have crept into its operation, so that it is increasingly costly and ever becoming discreditable."

Increases in municipal education costs and debenture debts, which were branded as "due largely to a vicious system of grants, both for teachers' salaries and building"; the completion of normal courses after probationary period, and the diversion of highway revenue, coupled with increasing highway debentures, were criticized by the Liberal Whip. An appeal was made for extended agricultural markets and as a concluding blow the member from Huron North cited at length the figures of the Dominion census showing the amount of mortgaged Ontario farm land; the costs of Provincial interest payments, and the decrease in the value of farm property, farm buildings, farm lands, farm implements and live stock.

The Liberal Whip then carried the war into the Conservative camp by listing the amounts which would be saved to rural Ontario counties by the reduction of 1 per cent. in interest rates. Such a reduction would save Perth County, \$84,651; Simcoe County, \$87,944; Wellington, \$83,621; Kent, \$96,091; Huron, \$98,853; Grey, \$78,457; Essex, \$75,505; Lincoln, \$49,327; Oxford, \$80,937; Middlesex, \$78,563; Bruce, \$74,862; Waterloo, \$64,263; Elgin, \$48,577; Halton, \$42,167; Ontario, \$50,594; Brant, \$29,998; and Peel, \$45,938.

"I propose to bring this near home," Mr. Robertson stated as he cited the figures, "and show some of the honorable members just what it means to the people who elected them and expect them to work in their behalf."

Centring his attention on a defense of the Government's attitude during the recent East Kent by-election, Wilfrid Heighington claimed that a Government contest would have been "a rather idle gesture." Commenting that from the morning papers one would have thought we would never dare to lift our heads again, the member from St. David's queried: "But, what are the facts?" It would have been idle, he answered, for a Government preparing for an election to contest a by-election in a constituency which is to be abolished. "My friend is here," he said, in reference to Douglas Campbell, member for East Kent, "but his present is only temporary."

The major body of Mr. Heighington's speech was devoted to the Liberal leadership of Mitchell Hepburn. Prefacing his argument by admitting that "we have heard from the Opposition and how much more from the newspapers that this Government no longer represents the people of the Province," the Conservative member proceeded to expound what he termed elementary principles of parliamentary government.

"They (the Opposition) have surrendered themselves and their mandate to speak for the people to a man who has no right or mandate to speak for the people of this Province," he charged. Asking on what authority the Opposition based their loyalty to such leadership, Mr. Heighington asserted: "These people, sent to the Legislature for a certain purpose, are not performing this purpose."