

March 7

Trans-Canada Project Urged for Completion

Packers Again Accused in Legislature Debate — Northern Members Are Prominent in Budget Discussion — Speaking Continues Until After Midnight

Immediate completion of Ontario's section of the Trans-Canada Highway, with employment of men drawn on a quota system from the direct relief centres of the Province was advocated in the Ontario Legislature late last night by Frank Spence (Conservative, Fort William). Mr. Spence estimated that the project would cost \$10,000,000, shared equally by the Province and the Dominion. Labor would be paid 25 cents an hour.

Earlier in the day the House had heard D. J. Taylor (Progressive, Grey North) accuse the packers of treating hog-shippers unfairly; A. V. Waters, Conservative member from Ontario's northernmost riding of Cochrane North, criticize Government colonization policies; E. J. Murphy (Conservative, Toronto-St. Patrick) taunt Progressive Leader Harry Nixon: "One of the two legacies from the Drury regime, the other being a coal scuttle"; and T. P. Murray (Liberal, Renfrew South) voice his opinion that Hon. Peter Smith, Provincial Treasurer in that same Government, went to jail because of happenings under a Conservative Administration.

At the outset of the day's sitting Dr. L. J. Simpson, Liberal Financial critic, had opened the Opposition attack on the Henry Budget with a 90-minute onslaught.

Just before midnight Earl Hutchinson (Labor, Kenora) began his criticism of the Budget. He protested wage reductions both by the Government and private industry.

The debate was adjourned at 12.15 this (Wednesday) morning.

Liberal Leader Assailed.

The Conservative formula, combining a slashing political attack with a suggestion for constructive legislation, was repeated in the Legislature yesterday by A. V. Waters (Conservative, Cochrane North). Appearing as first private Conservative participant in the Budget debate, Mr. Waters devoted half of his speech to a denunciation of Liberals, climaxing with the suggestion that the Liberal Leader "perhaps wished to serve the power barons," and in the second half of his address, analyzed the labor and agricultural problems of the Cochrane district, offering a series of suggestions for the improvement of colonization.

Alluding to the labor trouble in the lumber camps, the member for Cochrane North commended the Government for its efforts to improve conditions in the industry, mentioning particularly the anticipated legislation. Of the strikers in his locality, he said: "There is no doubt that the men were underpaid and had a just grievance." The Conservative member testified that the conduct of the men who congregated in Cochrane "was admirable and a credit to Canadian labor. There was no disorder save on the part of professional agitators." Praising the Provincial Police, he declared: "Their conduct stood out in sharp contrast to the conduct of the police in Quebec."

As an offset to this criticism, Mr. Waters praised the colonization projects of the Eastern Province as contrasted with Ontario conditions. The local colonization scheme had been wrong from the beginning, he contended, citing the indiscriminate opening of land, the subordination of the settlers' interests to forest conservation, and the insufficient financing of the unfledged farmers, as major defects of the Northern situation.

Timber Conservation Praised.

The member for Cochrane North offered concrete answers to each of these problems. Lauding the work of timber conservation, he suggested that after a survey, the interests of lumber and of settlement should be confined to districts best fitted for them. Mr. Waters urged a concentration of the settlers in communities, a modification of residence regulations to permit miners and factory workers to build up homes, and a bounty of some sort which would aid the settler in clearing the land.

Enumerating the difficulties of settlers forced to work on the road or in the timber industry to gain a subsistence while opening up a farm Mr. Waters called for higher wages for road work which would permit these men to devote more time to the work of their own property. Labor troubles would be lessened, he declared, when farmers backed by a full larder and root-house could bargain for wages in the lumber camps and the paper mills.

Mr. Waters concluded his suggestions with praise for the work of the agricultural agents and with the suggestion that agricultural lands should be transferred from the supervision of the Department of Lands and Forests to the Agricultural Ministry.

In the political part of his speech the member for Cochrane North charged that Liberal leaders were playing politics with human misery. They draw attention to the plight of the farmer, he contended, after a Liberal Administration in Ottawa has permitted tariff walls to be erected in the United States without protest, and they were now "fuming" over any sale made under the auspices of the present Ottawa Administration.

Hydro and St. Lawrence.

The Conservative member attacked what he alleged was the Liberal Leader's position in regard to Hydro and the St. Lawrence waterway, suggesting in the latter matter that if the Liberals wished to cure unemployment they should go to their leaders and ask them to change their attitudes. Terming the Gregory Commission "a crime," in which "a personal vengeance and a political vendetta" were involved, the member inferred that the present Liberal Leader, because Hydro was a Conservative achievement, attacked it in the hope of uncovering a vulnerable spot, without thinking of the peril to the public utility. "Or perhaps he wished to

serve the power barons," Mr. Waters suggested; "\$720,000 is a tidy sum, and worthy of some return."

Murphy Draws Nixon's Fire.

With a peroration, in which, after the first formal tributes, half the phrases dripped with good-humored irony, E. J. Murphy (Conservative, St. Patrick's) paid his respects to "vaporizing destructionists," "leaking windbags" and "maladministration ballyhoo." The Conservative member concentrated his barbed humor on the Progressive Leader, pausing at the end of modulated phrases to stare quizzically at Mr. Nixon, and occasionally arousing a rapid-fire exchange of repartee.

Assailing the member for Brant for his alliance with Mitchell Hepburn, the member for St. Patrick's detailed a sonorous description of their relationship, quoting as the viewpoint of the Progressive Leader, the couplet:

"What thou thinkest I will think,
What thou drinkest, I will drink."

The member for Brant protested that he couldn't remember using the exact words and asked if he were being quoted directly. "As you were," Mr. Murphy interjected, and went on with the allegory. As a conclusion he addressed the following verse to the Progressive Leader:

"The minstrel boy to the wars has gone,
In the party ranks you'll find him;
He's girded his leader's weapons on,
But his leader's far behind him."

Mr. Nixon suggested: "The honorable member is really flattering me too much," and Mr. Murphy returned with an allusion to the Government "which left us as a legacy a coal scuttle and the honorable member for Brant."

Tax Cuts Predicted.

In moments of seriousness, the member for St. Patrick's declared: "There has been no direct taxation by this Government; it has always been a luxury tax." He praised the Government for the surplus and lauded them for economies, claiming that "the increase in revenue reflects an upturn in business." Commenting that this had been accomplished in difficult times, he predicted tax cuts as soon as they were possible.

Mr. Murphy also defended the Conservative debt record, citing figures showing an annual debt increase of \$25,000,000 during the Ferguson regime, of \$40,000,000 under the Henry Government, and of \$48,000,000 when Drury was Prime Minister.

Hon. W. H. Price was lauded as the greatest Attorney-General since Confederation, and Mr. Murphy declared that "the firm stand taken by the Attorney-General prevents this Province from being a hunting ground for highwaymen of finance."

The member for St. Patrick's employed the word "virtue" with heavy irony in reference to the Liberal action costing W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., the \$3,000 allowance as House Leader. A moment later, when he began: "But in the case of the Orillia Magistrate," he was called to order by the Speaker at the instance of Mr. Nixon.

The tenth commandment, "Thou shalt not covet," was quoted for the benefit of Mitchell Hepburn. "Are we to assume that power is the divine right of the Conservative Party?" Mr. Nixon asked, but Mr. Murphy declined to answer directly. Denouncing Mr. Hepburn's program, the Conservative member claimed that a final plank of the platform read: "Free lectures on birth control." The member suggested that he may feel that he must make startling assertions to secure public attention.

It was with the reference to "leaking windbags" that Mr. Murphy was momentarily submerged under an Opposition barrage, but he climbed out a minute later with the remark: "I have listened to many horticultural addresses from the member for Brant, so I suppose tonight he must listen to me."

Sorry for Tories.

Mr. Murray, a firm believer in the functions of Parliamentary Opposition, expressed the hope that enough Conservatives would survive the coming elections to provide opposition for the Liberal Government.

He believed that the hundreds of thousands paid by the Government for legal advice constituted "a slur on the lawyers in this House." In January the Premier had called in three experts to help him float the loan, and had paid these experts \$40,000 for their services. Meanwhile the Attorney-General's Department was filled with competent legal men who could very well have given their advice as part of their jobs.

The Conservatives, said Mr. Murray, were a hard-luck party. Recalling the disasters which seemed always to attend Conservative Administrations in the past, he said the latest was the depression. The effect on the people was heightened by the taxes imposed since the present regime began in 1923. He disputed the repeated Governmental strictures on the Drury regime. In this connection he interjected: "I've always believed that Hon. Peter Smith (Provincial Treasurer in the Farmer Government) went to jail because of things done under the Conservatives before his time."

Mr. Murray recalled the statement of William Morrison (Conservative, Hamilton East) that as a labor man he considered John Aird Jr. had earned the \$50,000 received from Beauharnois. "I'd like to go up to Hamilton on the same platform with that loud-speaking lawyer," said Mr. Murray, "and let the laboring men hear both of us."

Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, scored a point on Mr. Murray, a lumberman, when the latter was criticizing the rate of \$1.20 a day paid at Government road camps.