

**Interrupted by Speaker.**

Dr. McQuibban silenced him gruffly as he attempted to continue his remarks. The Minister's protest that some politeness was due him met a sharp retort from the Opposition Leader. There had been no politeness, said Dr. McQuibban, shown by Mr. Finlayson to Opposition members during last week's long speech when Liberal members had been raked over the coals. Further altercation was interrupted by the Speaker, who notified Mr. Finlayson that the Leader of the Opposition wished no more interruptions.

The bulk of Dr. McQuibban's speech conformed with the pattern established by Liberals for Budget criticism. Premier Henry, he said, had made a "heroic effort to prove by the equation of figures that all is well, and that once again the pendulum swings true." Nevertheless the Premier had been "skating over rubbery ice." He noted that the humanitarian services of the Government repeatedly had been cited in Conservative defense, with the implication that Liberals might seek to curtail payments for mothers' allowances and old-age pensions. This he repudiated. "We, far from anything of this nature, would pledge our faith to the misfortunates in all branches, as far as Provincial aid can go," said Dr. McQuibban.

On farm loans, the Opposition Leader commented that it would be "a big proposition" for the Government to collect the accumulated interest, and this fact had been admitted by a Conservative high in the party ranks.

**Weighing His Thumb.**

The Premier, he continued, had the habit of "weighing his thumb" when he came to reckon Government assets. Nevertheless "he has reneged on his debt-retiring payments; he has a red smear on the Liquor Control Board sheet because he robs the till; he admits that he doesn't hanker for bills, especially near Oct. 31; and the unemployment item is not capital, and borrowed money pays it and its interest charges." Further, he noted, the Premier "seems to be the only one who had the jitters as to Ontario's credit."

Dr. McQuibban proceeded to plead, "in behalf of the debt-burdened citizens of the Province, for a campaign of interest-reduction. It won't be popular with the banks and investment companies, but it will fit into the niche of the times, and it will be popular with the life-blood of Canada's masses."

Before turning to his favorite subject of Hydro, Dr. McQuibban expressed his belief that recent developments in the mining fields should have eliminated the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway deficit of last year. On Hydro, he protested the \$50,000 payment to John Aird Jr. Hydro officials, he claimed, must have "blushed with shame" when the news came that the big sum was needed for the services of an outside individual in making a contract. "Is it any wonder," he inquired, "that I made the statement that I was unwilling to entrust the future of the St. Lawrence to those individuals who did not negotiate a 6,000-horsepower deal without this type of aid? What would they do in a million-horsepower proposition?" In regard to Hydro service to Northern Ontario mines, he protested that private interests were being permitted to lap the cream of the contracts.

Turning to the live stock question, the Opposition Leader cited big dividends paid by packers. "It demonstrates," he continued, "just how tremendous is the influence of huge combines in the well-being of our citizens. This combine actually took over two of these companies which were in bad shape, and the whole concern is prosperous because the farmer paid the price."

Dr. McQuibban reviewed the Abitibi purchase, "a romance of financial myth, the villain in the play a Conservative Administration. One is amazed on listening to speeches which seek to reveal the pure industrial motives of this Government as charitable gestures to the mining industry."

**Defeat of Tories Foretold.**

Reaffirmation of the coming of the big parade, a charge that the surplus is entirely a myth, and a defense of Drury financing, were included in Harry C. Nixon's contribution to the Leaders' summing up of the Budget debate. Speaking slowly and occasionally in biting tones, the Progressive Leader let his sarcasm loose on the Government benches and included the entire Conservative majority in his prediction that "next session will find Mr. Hepburn in this House and at least 65 per cent. of my honorable friends opposite not here, and I will undertake to say that he will not complain about their absence as they do about his."

First Opposition comment on the charges which have been emanating from the Conservative back benches came in the first few minutes of Mr. Nixon's address. Terming it "rather amusing" to hear certain Government supporters make what would pass as good Opposition speeches, he said: "They do not seem to realize how this reflects against the administration of their party, which has been in office now for eleven years. Certainly if in that time they could not keep the various contractors and subcontractors, stock yards, packing plants, canneries and employers of labor within the bounds of fair play and justice then indeed this Administration should be turned out of office."

The Progressive Leader swung into his description of the exodus from Queen's Park by testifying that, "in the main I agree with the principles and policies and the criticisms of this Administration as they have been discussed on the public platform of this Province by Mr. Hepburn." Mr. Nixon pointed out that in Nova Scotia and British Columbia there had been ample precedent for an outside Leader, adding the comment that in both instances the Leaders were successful in the ensuing general elections.

**White Horse for McCrea?**

Picturing the exodus, and mentioning comparisons with a Twelfth of July parade, he commented that "certainly it would be headed by every member of the Cabinet, and that would be a unique feature, as the Minister of Mines will concede." Hon. Charles McCrea smiled and asked: "Would they put me on the white horse?"

A moment later the Progressive Leader included all officials appointed since last Oct. 31, remarking that Mr. Hepburn's statement in that respect was "very definite," and again bringing up the fifth session question. A speech from Sir James Whitney was introduced in which the late Conservative Prime Minister said of the similar legislation passed by the Liberal Government of the early years of the century: "The act was a disgrace to the statute books of the Province, designed to stifle the public will and extend their own life."

Turning back to his description of the exodus, the Progressive Leader admitted, amid Conservative laughter, that the recently appointed officials, having outstanding qualifications, might be permitted to stand for reappointment.

**Would Retire Gaby.**

The return fire came from the Government benches when Mr. Nixon shifted from generalities to the prediction of the departure of the Hydro Commissioners, and Chief Engineer Gaby. "Are you in favor of letting him go absolutely?" Hon. Dr. Robb asked. "Absolutely," the Progressive Leader said, with an immediate reference to the Chief Engineer's address in which Mr. Hepburn was named.

Hon. J. R. Cooke, Chairman of the Hydro Commission, then took up the Government cudgels, asking to what particular remarks, objections were made. Mr. Nixon picked up a copy of the speech, and referred to Mr. Gaby's connection of the phrases "misleading" and "gross exaggeration," with Mitchell Hepburn's statements, and pointed out that the attack had been based on newspaper reports which Mr. Gaby used without going to the trouble of finding out if the Liberal Leader had been correctly quoted. After another interchange, the Progressive Leader declared: "I say that, in my opinion, it was very improper for Mr.

The fireworks blazed up again a moment later when Mr. Nixon contended from the evidence of certain figures that Mr. Gaby's salary must be at least \$35,000. "You are quite incorrect in that statement," Mr. Cooke replied. "Well, then, why won't you bring in an answer to the question concerning Hydro salaries?" the Progressive Leader asked heatedly.

Going on with his indictment he charged that a dozen Hydro officials were receiving higher salaries than the Premier, while the Province was suffering because of the depression. The Progressive Leader waxed facetious over claims that an announcement of Hydro officials' salaries might lead to higher offers from other interests, commenting that limited information had been released last year and there had been no signs of "kidnapping."

**Tory Appointments.**

A general view of Conservative appointments was interjected into the criticisms of personnel, with the comment that many of the boards, Commissions, bureaus and departments are headed by "defeated Conservative candidates, former Conservative members, Conservative Senators, Conservative heelers, and what have you."

Surely, he said, a new administration would not be expected to carry on with such a set, charging "if there is a spoils system in this Province my honorable friends are to blame. It would seem that when a constituency

repudiates a Conservative candidate, the Government and the Civil Service Commission find that he has just the qualifications required to fill these jobs."

Reverting again to definite cases, Mr. Nixon mentioned Hon. I. B. Lucas. "While he has built up the Legal Department within the Hydro Commission costing over \$42,840, we find out in answer to questions that if the slightest legal service is required they must go out and engage our old friend, W. N. Tilley, K.C., at fees and retainers running into large sums of money," he contended.

**Minimum Wages.**

Members of the Minimum Wage Board also came in for mention as possible members of the parade. "I am sure the Province at large has been shocked and astounded by the revelations of conditions which have been permitted by this board," the Progressive Leader declared.

Reference was made to the position which R. A. Stapells, Chairman of the Minimum Wage Board, was said to hold as Vice-President of J. J. Gibbons Limited, "an advertising agency soliciting the employers of labor for advertising business." The Progressive Leader commented: "Surely you can see that is not a proper association." When Mr. Nixon mentioned H. G. Foster as a very strong Tory, the Conservative benches chuckled, and he was told that Mr. Foster was a Drury appointment.

Switching in the second part of his speech to the Government finances, Mr. Nixon termed the alleged surplus a myth, and expressed agreement with the statement "that the balanced Budget and the surplus were reached purely by arithmetical juggling." Alleging that such juggling was unique in the Provincial history, he pointed out that "had last year's policy of dealing with the unemployment relief expenditures been continued there would have been a deficit of \$2,409,569." The alleged surplus was not only a myth, but a dangerous illusion, the Progressive Leader declared, contending that the Government was employing it as justification in an election year to embark on a policy of spending.

**Cross-Entries.**

The adjustment of cross-entries next received attention, Mr. Nixon charging that "the adjustment of cross-entries conceals many millions of expenditure from the statements that are before us, and makes it utterly impossible to give fair or intelligent comparison with the expenditures of last year." Presenting a table to cover this feature, he cited figures showing "that every year the ordinary expenses appear to get lower," while amounts ranging from \$17,000,000 in 1930 to \$40,000,000 and \$37,000,000 in 1932 and 1933 were labelled "concealed cross-entries."