

Patronage Curse "Deep and Thick," Macaulay Charges

Former Minister Charges Use of Private Railway Cars to Liberals

CHARGES that the Province of Ontario "was cursed with political patronage worse than ever before" were hurled at the Government yesterday by Leopold Macaulay, former Minister of Highways.

Never So Thick.

"We've never had the curse of patronage as deep and as thick on the landscape of Ontario as we have today," he charged, and later added: "This Province is just reeking with political patronage—worse than ever before."

Liberals were using private cars on the T. & N.O. Railway to carry them to Liberal conventions, to carry them to golf games, and to carry them to Jasper, Alta., he charged.

A hotel inspector in the Fort Frances district was paid \$150 a month to inspect ten hotels—three days' work, he said. At Blind River, Albert, Savard had been appointed to the liquor store. This man was "a convicted bootlegger," he declared.

Another man, named Martin, was also named by Mr. Macaulay under this charge. Martin had been appointed a clerk in the Bala liquor store, he said, replacing a returned soldier.

Mr. Hepburn announced to the press later that he would seek full information on these charges.

These were only a few of the charges levelled by the former Minister in the course of a lengthy attack on the Government yesterday.

"This Government has been in office two years and at neither this session nor the last have you brought in any broad, comprehensive scheme to relieve unemployment," he said.

Attacks Roebuck.

The former Minister accused Attorney-General Roebuck of opposing labor legislation enacted by the Dominion Government. He had fought Mr. Bennett's new deal before the Supreme Court, he said.

Mr. Roebuck—My friend doesn't know what he's talking about.

The Attorney-General had opposed the legislation on the grounds that Canada had no power to sign such a treaty as Mr. Bennett had based his legislation upon, said Mr. Macaulay.

The Minister of Northern Development (Hon. Peter Heenan) had a gang of patronage seekers following him in Northern Ontario and in Southern Ontario, Mr. Macaulay said, continuing his attack on the Government.

Information Volunteered.

Mr. Heenan invited Mr. Macaulay to come to his office some time and he would supply him with some information.

The Legislature, continued the former Minister, had never had a report on the Rowlandson investigation. Would the Prime Minister give him the information at the moment?

"I haven't that information yet, but I will make inquiries," Mr. Hepburn said. W. B. Common, K.C., had been appointed to make the inquiry, he said, but sickness had prevented him from making an early report.

The allegations which the Government were investigating were made by Rowlandson, a private member, against the Department of Northern Development.

Switching to another charge, Mr. Macaulay accused the Government of appointing an inspector of hotels in the Fort Frances district. This man received \$150 per month to inspect ten hotels, a matter of three days' work, said Mr. Macaulay.

Sermons?

"The rest of the time he's out as a political scout. How the Prime Minister could make a sermon about that," he said. "I don't think the Government knows what it's all about when it comes to political appointments like this."

The Hepburn Government had made much political capital out of charges that the Tories had used private cars on the T. & N. O. Railway. But now he found that the names on two private cars had been painted out, numbers had been painted in, and they were used freely. One was No. 210, the other No. 200.

Those two cars were travelling about the country, used by Liberals. One car had gone to a Liberal convention at Kirkland Lake, another was out at Jasper, Alberta, "promoting Northern Ontario," he said. Another had carried Liberals to a golf game last July.

"I've never used a private car in my life at public expense," declared Mr. Hepburn. His Western trip in a private car during the Federal election had been paid for, but not by the public, he stated.

"This Province is just reeking with political patronage—worse than ever before," insisted the Conservative. The campaign manager for Salter Hayden, Liberal candidate for St. Paul's in the last election, was employed in the East Block of the Parliament Buildings at the time of the campaign, he said.

Memory Jogged.

"I think my friend will recall that he resigned," said Provincial Secretary Nixon.

Mr. Macaulay—Yes, after the press exposed it.

Mr. Heenan declared that he had phoned the man at the committee rooms and had told him either to get out of the committee rooms or quit his job.

Mr. Macaulay—If I'm not mistaken he'll be back on the payroll, either here or in Ottawa; look out he doesn't get on yours.

The former Minister turned briefly to Hydro matters. The "much-maligned" Abitibi power development would be one means of restoring prosperity in the Province, he predicted, because it was rapidly aiding in the development of the mining industry.

"Before four years are up since the last election, Abitibi will stand like a beacon as one of the assets of this Province," he said.

"You," he said to the Government, "have got to face the problems of Canada as they face this Government and as they faced the last Government. But while this Government has had its second session it has shown no wide, sweeping plan of meeting these problems," he concluded.