

Packers Rob Farmers, Claims U.F.O. Member

THE Canadian farmer is being robbed by the packing houses of the entire benefit of the lowered United States tariff, the Legislature was told yesterday by Farquhar Oliver, U.F.O. member for Grey South.

Heaping charges on the large firms which dominate the beef market in this part of Ontario, the Farmer member, during the debate on the Budget, claimed that the supposedly rival firms worked together to the detriment of the cattle exporter.

Sees Market Manipulation.

"There are two large packing firms out in West Toronto," said Mr. Oliver. "They must be great friends and pretty close together because one buys today and the other one tomorrow, or some days neither of them buys, so that the cattle pile up in the yards for a day or two until those two big firms can get all they want at their own price."

He attacked also what he called the "growing practice of the West Toronto companies permitting a glut of cattle to occur in their own yards to the detriment of the entire cattle industry."

Regarding the United States trade pact, Mr. Oliver criticized J. S. McLean, President of Canada Packers, for having said "in all the papers

that the tariff charge would mean 1 1/2 or 2 cents more per pound for the Canadian beef exporter." On the contrary, he said, he himself was convinced that "the big packing companies in Canada and the United States have so arranged matters that any benefit resulting from the lower tariff, instead of doing the farmer one particle of good, is going deep down in their own pockets."

Hubs and Spokes.

Turning to Hydro matters, the Grey member deplored what he called the mistaken policy of giving all the care and attention to the hub and neglecting the spokes and the rim, of extending the lowest rates and highest privileges to the big cities like Toronto, while the towns and villages struggled under adverse conditions. He also urged the reduction of the annual service charge from \$2 to \$1, and appealed for a lower interest rate on loans and mortgages, claiming that usury of 6 and 7 per cent. was driving many farmers off their own land.

Mr. Oliver advocated the House adopting a one-hour limit on private members' speeches, similar to the forty-minute House of Commons restriction. "Anybody but a lawyer," he said, "can get to the meat of a speech and express himself properly and adequately in an hour, and those who can't should never get up."

Allegiance of U.F.O. Is Puzzle to Tories

FARQUHAR OLIVER'S status in relation to the Hepburn Government became a momentary issue in the Legislature yesterday while the burly U.F.O. member for Grey South was debating the Budget with some measure of praise.

W. A. Baird, Tory member for Toronto-High Park, rose to inquire whether Mr. Oliver was "the last lone survivor in the House of the once great U.F.O. Party, or whether he has definitely aligned himself

with the Hepburn Government."

Mr. Oliver declined to commit himself. "My honorable friend has a plan of the House," he said. "Maybe the color shown there will help him. Anyhow, time will tell. A difference of one or two members is of little consequence in this House."

However, he concluded his address with a eulogy of Prime Minister Hepburn as "the best bet in that office that this Province has had in many years."

ROAD BUILDING URGED FOR NORTH

J. Frank Kelly, long time big man of Huntsville's Winter Carnival, last night told the Legislature that he hoped to live to see the day when Ontario will be spoken of as "the Switzerland of America."

The Hepburn Government, Mr. Kelly suggested to his party chieftain, should not curtail road construction in Muskoka too much because the winter sports development was a boon to the Province and an inspiration to the Dominion.

"Continue the road-construction program wherever possible, and do away with direct relief," he urged. "You will be doing something to build up the morale of the people. These people have their origin in their homes, hence the home becomes the foundation on which the superstructure of the State is built."

Mr. Kelly also asked for some form of hospitalization for the North. People in his riding were denying themselves hospital treatment because they did not wish to be classed as indigent. Surely some levy could be made to create a fund which would make it possible for every citizen to receive medical treatment.

ELLIS CHARGES DATE-CHANGING

Original Tenders Not Marked, He Claims

As the Ontario Legislature Public Accounts Committee started an investigation yesterday into Northern Development Department expenditures Arthur Ellis, Conservative member for Ottawa South and Opposition counsel, charged that since he had examined tenders for the Kenora-Fort Frances highway, dates had been inserted on some showing when they were opined.

"When I looked at those original tenders, many of them had no date on them," Mr. Ellis declared.

"You're bringing a charge against the department in whose custody the tenders have been, that some one has forged the date, which is a serious charge," Attorney-General Roebuck replied.

To a demand he take the witness stand and back up his charge, Mr. Ellis replied, "All right; swear me." He was not, however, pressed to testify.

After motions were approved, calling for investigation of all tie-buying by the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway since 1919, the committee turned to investigation of the Kenora-Fort Frances highway, and R. A. Campbell, Deputy Minister of Northern Development, was under examination for the entire session before the committee adjourned until tomorrow.

"My friend is misleading the committee and is attempting to mislead the press," Attorney-General Roebuck interjected with respect to Mr. Ellis, during this discussion.

"I've got a lot of patience," Mr. Ellis returned, "and I'm not going to sit here and listen to the Attorney-General make a lot of insinuations."

A letter written to the department from the engineer on one section of the road and dated Sept. 11, 1934—the day before the notice to contractors was issued—said the survey of a thirteen-mile stretch had not been complete. It would require ten days more to make it.

Preliminary plans of the department before tenders were called should be placed before the committee, Mr. Ellis insisted. To Mr. Ellis's observation that when tenders were called the department seemed to have only a vague idea of the cost, Mr. Roebuck replied no one could see through mud and rock.

At the request of the Opposition counsel, Mr. Campbell compared quantities of work set out in the preliminary estimates with the figures used in the actual tender. In some cases there was considerable variance.