

Father of "Quints" Now Appreciates Aid of Government

Couldn't Get Along Without It, Says Oliva Dionne, Commenting on New Personnel of Board of Guardians

TO BE "OUT OF POLITICS"

Callander, Ont., Feb. 24 (CP).—In two sentences tonight, Oliva Dionne confirmed an announcement in the Ontario Legislature that he had become "one of the keenest advocates of continued Governmental protection and assistance" for his quintuplet children.

At his home across the road from Dafeo Nursery, where the quintes live apart from the rest of the family, Dionne said: "We appreciate the protection of the Government. We couldn't get along without it."

It was the first admission by the slender father that he agreed in any way with Ontario legislation under which all business and personal arrangements for the quintes are in the hands of a board of guardians. A member of the board, Dionne seldom, if ever, attended a meeting of the board.

Announcement of a change in the guardianship, with Percy D. Wilson, Ontario's Official Guardian, succeeding Hon. David A. Croll, led Dionne to express the hope "a happy reunion" of the family would result.

He looked forward to meeting the new special guardian, and hoped he would work in the best interests of reunion, Dionne said.

The Dionne quintuplets won't be a subject of debate in the next Provincial general election in Ontario, which he said would be in 1938, Welfare Minister David A. Croll told the Legislature yesterday in announcing his retirement as a guardian of the quintes.

Mr. Croll looked ahead to that election campaign, saw himself as both Liberal Cabinet Minister and Dionne guardian, and said:

"In the heat of that campaign somebody is going to start praising or criticizing; partisanship will appear, the big news services will carry the fight everywhere and Ontario's prestige won't be helped. I think it better that we now remove the guardianship as far as possible from the vicissitudes of party politics."

In moving a bill which will have this effect, Mr. Croll gave an account of his stewardship and told of the fortune that has been rolled up for the benefit of the famous infants. He revealed, too, that Oliva Dionne, father of the quintes, was no longer at loggerheads with the Government, and now favored the present arrangement.

Mr. Croll told an interested House that so heavy had become the work of special guardian of the quintes that he had had to make a choice between being a "contact man" for the babies or devoting himself to his portfolios of Welfare, Labor and Municipal Affairs.

"The only fame which comes to the quintuplets' manager is something like the reflected glory enjoyed by a movie star's husband," said the Minister.

Foundation Hinted.

Toward the close of his address, Mr. Croll threw out the suggestion that at some time in the not too distant future a Dionne Foundation might be set up with money provided from the quintuplets' revenue, for the purpose of aiding underprivileged children. A share of the money might be devoted to child welfare work, creating a lasting

monument to the "miracle of Callander," he said.

From the former guardians was handed down two years ago \$32,472.02 "and certain debts," Mr. Croll said.

"When this bill passes the House, after two years' operation of the act, we shall turn over to the official guardian the Dionne assets now under our control, consisting of \$543,046.39, invested in Government and Government-guaranteed bonds of the Province and the Dominion, and contracts guaranteeing for two years an assured income of \$200,000 a year, and no debts," Mr. Croll said.

Now that they have money—enough in prospect to assure the Dionne family an ample income "for all time—the 33-months-old quintet enters a new phase in life. This will include education, training and a normal family life," Mr. Croll suggested.

Ottawa, Feb. 24 (CP).—Percy D. Wilson, Ontario's Official Guardian, who will succeed Hon. David Croll as special guardian of the Dionne quintuplets, was prominent in legal, political, educational and sports circles here.

A former President of the Ottawa Liberal Association, Mr. Wilson was offered the party's nomination in several campaigns. In 1934 he accepted the Provincial nomination for South Ottawa, but was defeated by Arthur Ellis, Conservative and present M.L.A. He was also an executive of the Eastern Ontario Liberal Federation.

In educational circles he was a member of the Collegiate Institute Board for many years and Chairman of its Management Committee. He was also former Treasurer of the Ottawa Branch, National Council of Education. He was captain of the Lisgar Collegiate football team in 1905 and 1906, and also played basketball there and at McGill University. He also played on McGill's intermediate football team and its hockey team.

Queries Roebuck.

"It was your view we didn't need the power and would never use it," replied Mr. Macaulay. "Then why sign the contract? You told the House the Hydro Commission was looking northward, toward power developments of the future."

"If you had listened carefully to my speech you would have heard what I said," declared Mr. Roebuck.

Mr. Macaulay poked fun at the Premier, declaring the latter saw "power barons hiding behind every fence post."

The former Highways Minister and the Premier had several short but sharp brushes over matters in connection with the Provincial debt. It was Mr. Macaulay's contention that the Government had taken fifty-four millions from the Provincial debt and added it to the Hydro debt.

Asks for Facts.

"When you talk about Provincial debt — talk about Provincial debt plus Hydro debt, and then we will know the true facts," said Mr. Macaulay.

"I'll read you a financial statement in a day or two that will surprise you," promised the Premier. "And it will be so good you won't like it," he added.

Deceit Over Power Needs Is Charged To Hon. A. Roebuck

Claim by Leopold Macaulay That New Contract Prepared While Province Told "No Shortage" Denied by Attorney-General

CLASHES WITH PREMIER

At the very time the Attorney-General was telling the House and the Province at large that there was no need for further blocks of power, preparations were being made to sign a contract with the Ottawa Valley Power Company, Leopold Macaulay (Cons., South York), charged in the Legislature yesterday.

Attorney-General Roebuck vigorously denied he had made such a statement, asserting that what he had said was that the Hydro Commission had passed the peak and no more power would be needed until December.