

M.L.A.'s Who Shed Tears For Back Concessions Irk Eglinton Member

Those Who Shout and Weep the Loudest Merely 'Gentlemen Farmers,' Remarks Harold Kirby

CITES HEPBURN, HENRY

Stinging condemnation of those members of the Legislature who continually tried to pit country against urban communities, coupled with a vigorous defense of the City of Toronto—"her industry, intelligence and integrity"—was voiced during the wind-up of the Budget debate last night by Harold J. Kirby (Eglinton), Chief Whip for the Liberal Party.

"I am a sincere supporter of the present Administration," declared Mr. Kirby, "and am a strong believer in party politics, nevertheless my first obligation is to my riding and to the city which I have the honor to represent in this House, regardless of what the consequences might be to me personally."

It had been very amusing, said Mr. Kirby, to hear so many members rise in their places and make such pathetic appeals for the man on "the back concession."

The "Dirt Farmer."

"Many members," said he, "shed crocodile tears for the man they call the dirt farmer—the man who earns his living by the sweat of his brow. And it is surprising to note that those members who shout the loudest and shed the largest tears are not dirt farmers themselves at all. Many of them are specialists or what I would prefer to call gentlemen farmers. Take, for instance, the farmer members of the Cabinet—the Prime Minister and the Provincial Secretary. Do they look like dirt farmers? Do you think for a minute they earn their bread and butter by the sweat of their brow? Take a look at the Leader of the Opposition? Would you call him a dirt farmer? Nor can I overlook the Minister of Agriculture. Would you put him in that class? I venture to say that he hasn't stood between a pair of plow handles for forty years."

Charging that many things were said on the floor of the House for "the mere purpose of political propaganda and personal aggrandizement," Mr. Kirby recalled how repeatedly the legal profession, of which he was a member, had been subjected to abuse from alleged farmer legislators. In this connection he referred particularly to the member for Oxford (P. M. Dewan, Lib.), who, he claimed, on one occasion made one of "the most venomous speeches against urban centres and lawyers ever uttered in any Legislature."

Experience From Books.

"His address," claimed Mr. Kirby, "was carefully prepared, and then submitted to the powers that be for blessing before it was delivered. I could not think of hurting his feelings by passing him over, because he is known as an agriculturist. But his farming experience was mostly gathered from books. I would call him the professional or commercial farmer because he goes in for what is known as co-operative farming. And my understanding is that co-operative means working jointly for a common end."

Mr. Kirby congratulated Mr. Hepburn and his Cabinet for their reorganization of the Milk Board and for the benefits they have been able to pass on to the farmer. "Those of us who live in the cities," said he, "will not begrudge anything extra these farmers get, provided they do get it. But it is pretty difficult to figure out yet why the producer gets only three cents to four cents per quart for milk when the consumer has to pay thirteen and fourteen cents. You know, something was said on the hustings in 1934 about an investigation into milk and bread prices. Maybe we should also have a Bread Board, because it is pretty hard to understand just why, with wheat at 50 cents per bushel, bread should be the same price it is with wheat at \$2.50 per bushel."