

OLIVER ASSAILS FARM RECORD OF KING CABINET

Raps Federal Bacon
Board and Dominion
Tax on Rural Hydro

PRAISES HEPBURN

Farquhar Oliver, the lone U.F.O. member of the Legislature, told the House in a Budget debate speech yesterday that he was not prepared, even in the name of patriotism, to see the farmers going lower and lower in the scale, while industry "sits behind double doors and gets all the protection from the Government."

Pleading for a better deal on behalf of the farmers of Ontario, Mr. Oliver declared that no Government had the right to afford protection to industry without giving the same protection to farming. There was no national organization that could voice the views of the farmers as a body, he said, and from his experience Governments expected the farmers to grow and produce all they could and get whatever price they could in the markets.

"What right has industry to protection that is not given to others?" demanded the member for Grey South. "Industry has always been able to look after itself very well, but the Dominion Government takes the view that it must obligate itself to see that industry gets a fair deal. No such protection is given the farmer."

Sees Bacon Discrimination.

Mr. Oliver cited the case of the Federal Bacon Board. The packing interests had a direct representative on this board, but there was no

representative of the bacon producers on it. He expressed hope that when affairs became stabilized at Ottawa something would be done to rectify the situation.

Dealing with other matters, Mr. Oliver praised the Hepburn Government for its Hydro reforms in rural areas. He took issue with statements made Tuesday night by A. W. Downer (Cons., Dufferin-Simcoe), who claimed the present Government had not done a single thing for the farmers.

When he was elected to the Legislature thirteen years ago, continued Mr. Oliver, he had tried in vain to get the Government of the day to carry out certain reforms. These included extension of mothers' allowance to the widow with one child, the taking over by the Province of the full cost of Provincial highways and old-age pensions, and other matters of equal importance.

"The present Government has done these things," declared Mr. Oliver. "One would have to be a most rabid partisan to believe that nothing has been done by this Government for the farmers."

Will Vote for Hepburn.

The member for Grey South detailed the assistance given rural Ontario in the matter of Hydro rates, declaring that the Government by reducing the service charge from \$2 to \$1, and reducing the number of subscribers per mile from three to two, had given tremendous impetus to the spread of Hydro in rural areas. He deplored, however, that the Dominion 8 per cent sales tax, which was aimed at domestic consumption, should hit the farmers, who in most cases had only one meter and used Hydro largely for commercial purposes.

Hon. W. L. Houck, vice-chairman of the Hydro Commission, informed the U.F.O. member at this point that the commission had tried with all its powers to get some satisfaction from the Dominion Government in connection with this matter, but had failed to receive any consideration. The suggestion had been made that farmers be taxed up to \$2, and that consumption above that figure be tax free.

"Conference after conference has been held, but we have received no consideration at all," said Mr. Houck. "Meanwhile, the farmers are paying through the nose."

Mr. Oliver dealt with other aspects of Provincial affairs, and declared he intended to vote in favor of the Budget because he believed the Government had made an honest effort in difficult times.

JOBLESS POLICY HELD ESSENTIAL

The Government must do something for the thousands of unemployed in Canada, a problem which would be aggravated when the war concluded, William Duckworth (Con., Dovercourt) said in the Legislature last night, as debate on the budget continued.

"I feel that employment for the people in this country is the most important business in the country," he said. "If the Governments of the day don't do these things, all the legislation we have passed from time to time won't mean anything. After this war is over, there will have to be work for the people, for we will not be able to carry the relief in the same manner as has been done in the past eight years. The country won't be able to find the money.

"We will keep hiding our heads in the sand like ostriches until someone comes along and hits us over the back," said Mr. Duckworth. "Then we will wake up and try to do something when it is too late."