

FARM MINISTRY FULL-TIME JOB, M.L.A. DECLARES

J. W. Freeborn Deplores
Ottawa Policy; Urges
Aid for Agriculture

PROBLEMS INCREASE

Declaring that the farmers of Ontario, despite the way they have been ignored while industry has been assisted by the Dominion Government, will continue to do their share toward winning the war, J. W. Freeborn, Liberal member in the Provincial Legislature for Middlesex North, presented a number of problems faced by the farmers for the consideration of the House yesterday.

"The farmers," he said, "know that wars are not won on empty stomachs. They ask, and I think they have a right to expect, equality of effort as well as equality of sacrifices on the part of all Canadians in the task of winning this gigantic struggle. Agriculture has been taken too much for granted."

He said that no class in Canada is more anxious or willing to do its share than the farmers, but they are asking those in authority to guarantee them the same economic security as guaranteed to those engaged in other industries and to labor.

"The farmer's economic position has not improved since the war started," he said. "His costs have risen steadily, his labor problems have become more acute, the price of most of his products has been set largely by boards on which he has not representation and set, in more cases, below cost of production."

"One would naturally expect," he said, after stating that Canada was essentially an agricultural country, "that, especially in wartime, that Canada would require a full-time Minister of Agriculture, but we have only a part-time man on the job at Ottawa. Several of the less important departments at Ottawa have a full-time Minister, but not so agriculture, one of the major industries of the country."

"The first and most essential requirement toward the solution of the agricultural wartime difficulties is to have a full-time Minister at Ottawa. And the second is that there should be adequate producer representation on all boards appointed by the Government to handle farm products."

WOULD ASSESS COLLEGE FARM

Committee Passes Bill
Opposing Exemption

AFFECTS OTTAWA U.

The University of Ottawa, under legislation approved yesterday by the Legislature Private Bills Committee, will be required to pay taxes upon all of its 300-acre farm in Carleton County, Gloucester Township, with the exception of 50 acres.

The bill, which received a stormy one-and-a-half-hour passage in committee stage, will again provoke controversy when it comes before the House for final disposition, members indicated. In the final committee vote yesterday, farmer members voted almost in a block for the bill, in opposition to lawyers.

The bill, at its present stage, will require the college to pay taxes on the 250 acres from Jan. 1, 1940. Backers of the bill were led by Holly Acres, Conservative member for Carleton. Alexander L. Elliott, Liberal, Peterborough, was elected chairman of the committee.

According to C. C. Gibson, Carleton County solicitor, taxes had been paid on the farm up to 1938, at which time the university, claiming exemptions under the University of Ottawa Act, 1933, withheld payments. He said the farm products were competing with those grown by individual farmers. The taxes prior to 1938 were \$669 annually.

Senator Louis Cote, who, as a member of the Legislature in 1933 fathered the university bill, acted as solicitor for the university in yesterday's hearing. He asserted it had been operated on an average annual deficit of \$58,000 for the past ten years, and that all but 2 per cent of the farm's output was consumed by the university. It was planned

to establish an agriculture college on the property, he said. He admitted he advised the university to discontinue its tax payments.

'Purple Gasoline' For Farmers Asked

Adoption in Ontario of the Saskatchewan system of tax-free "purple gasoline" for farm engines was recommended yesterday in the Legislature by W. Angus Dickson, Liberal member for Perth, and a farmer.

Under the present system in Ontario, he explained, a farmer paid the tax on his gasoline and then filed an application for a rebate with the department. Rebate payments were from two to three months in arrears, said Mr. Dickson, and attributed it to an increase in tractors rather than to department inefficiency. The Saskatchewan system, he said, has proved less costly and more satisfactory all around.

Appleby School Seeks Change to College

Boys prefer a college to a school, the Legislature Private Bills Committee was told yesterday at Queen's Park when asked to approve a measure that will change the name of Appleby School, Oakville, to Appleby College.

"It's purely a dollar-and-cent proposition," said the school's representative, H. C. Walker of Oakville. The school, by change of name, believed enrolment could be increased. The bill was sponsored by Thomas Blakelock (Lib., Halton).