

HINTS ONTARIO TO BUY, PRESENT FOOD TO BRITAIN

**Kent Liberal Believes
Provincial Surplus Is
Earmarked for Gifts**

CAUSES SURPRISE

Cabinet Ministers exchanged surprise glances in the Legislature yesterday when D. M. Campbell, Liberal member for Kent East, informed the House in his budget speech that he understood the Government was considering spending part, or all, of its surplus to buy agricultural products in the Province and present them as a free gift to the people of Britain.

When the session adjourned, Minister of Agriculture P. M. Dewan told the press that he knew of no such movement as mentioned by Mr. Campbell.

The suggestion that a substantial portion of the \$12,000,000 surplus be used in this manner came from W. J. Stewart, Conservative member for Parkdale, who said the outright gift of agricultural products from Ontario would be partial recognition of what the people of Great Britain have been doing in the battle for liberty and civilization.

Mr. Campbell said that he agreed with the suggestion of the Opposition member, and then startled Government supporters by stating, "I understand a movement like this is now being considered."

Lauds Government Action.

Mr. Stewart said that the action of the Government in taking up the major share of the cost of relief in the Province was appreciated by all the municipalities. But, he contended, owing to the large influx of unemployed to the larger centres, it should not be unemployment relief but State relief with the entire cost borne by the Dominion. He also thought that considerable credit should go to the elected and appointed boards of the different municipalities in their efforts to reduce taxation and debts.

He suggested three main means of spending this year's surplus. He said that some of it should be spent in improving the health and hospitalization services, some in assisting struggling municipalities in meeting their relief charges and in encouraging agriculture by buying the farmers' products and giving them to Britain as a present from Ontario. He also said that part of the surplus could be utilized in establishing a sinking fund for the Provincial highway system, for the establishment of a safety education campaign among school children and by the establishment of scholarships in memory of the late Sir Frederick Banting.

Plan Liberal Caucus Early Next Week

Liberal members will be called into caucus early next week to discuss what Premier Hepburn terms "general business." Last week the Premier denied emphatically that the calling of a caucus was related in any way to election plans.

It is believed almost certain that the bill to give women sitting rights on juries will be tossed into the caucus arena for a general discussion before it is permitted to go again before the House. The bill has not yet received second reading.

Agrees With Stewart.

Agreement with Mr. Stewart in several of his suggestions was expressed by Mr. Campbell, who said that the Government had not done what many Governments would have done, spend the entire revenue. While taxation is heavy the people have been rendered services in return, he contended, and cited the cheese and hog bonuses. In connection with the cheese bonus, he doubted that 2 cents a pound would be a large enough bonus to produce the amount of cheese needed by Great Britain. He intimated that it may be necessary later on to increase the cheese bonus.

Mr. Campbell dealt at some length on the hog situation. The main object behind the bonus is to increase the quality of the Ontario product so that in postwar years it will be able to stand up against the competition of the countries that have been shut off from the British market by the war, he stated.

He added that agriculture is in anything but a healthy condition, and that the farmer's overhead and uncontrollable expenditures were not in line with his revenue.

"While our overhead and expenses have gone up," he said, "the prices of farm products on the whole are no better than they were years ago. It is true that a few commodities are higher, but this is more than balanced by others that are ridiculously low—wheat is far below the cost of production. The people of our country engaged in other occupations and professions are so organized that the returns for their labors are based on the cost-plus basis. If this Government doesn't do it, the Federal Government will be buying Canadian agricultural products and giving, not selling, them to Britain."