

M.L.A. Urges King Fire Gardiner and Lapointe To Keep Canada United

Acres Says Former Is Separating Dominion, Province by Province, Through Agricultural Policy, and Terms Latter 'Real Prime Minister'

CLAIMS BEST MEN NOT BEING USED

Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe, "practically the real Prime Minister of Canada," and Hon. J. G. Gardiner, "whose agricultural policy is separating the Dominion, Province by Province," should be eliminated from the Mackenzie King Cabinet, the Ontario Legislature was told yesterday by A. H. Acres, Conservative member for Carleton.

Using the Budget debate as a medium through which to express his views on Federal affairs, Mr. Acres attacked the King Government's policies, charged the Prime Minister was not gathering the best men around him to aid in the war effort, and called upon Mr. King to "fire" Messrs. Lapointe and Gardiner. Interspersed with his comments on the makeup of the Dominion Cabinet were references to Provincial affairs and criticism of their handling by the occupants of the treasury benches.

"We must stand together, we must have a united people, if we are going to carry on the war successfully," declared Mr. Acres. "I call on Prime Minister King to fire Gardiner and also Lapointe, who is practically the real Premier of Canada, and who is not a true representative of the French-Canadian citizens of this country. Gardiner is separating the Dominion, Province by Province, with his agricultural policies, while Lapointe is breaking up Canada, race by race. The speech he made recently was not a true expression of the people of Quebec."

Clashes with Glass.

The Conservative member clashed with J. J. Glass, Liberal member for Toronto-St. Andrew, on several occasions. He deplored that Mr. King had not given Dr. Manion something to do in the war effort. Dr. Manion had a fine war record and was admirably fitted to assist in the present emergency, but had been ignored by Mr. King, Mr. Acres charged.

Mr. Glass interrupted to say that Mr. King had given Dr. Manion a job.

"No he didn't," shot back the member for Carleton. "It was Colonel Ralston who placed Dr. Manion. Colonel Ralston, the man who should be Prime Minister."

"But his own party kicked him out," remarked Mr. Glass.

"You want to keep quiet or your own party will be throwing you overboard," warned Mr. Acres.

"Why does not Mr. King follow the example set by Mr. Roosevelt in the United States?" asked Mr. Acres. "He is working along with Mr. Willkie to do everything possible to increase the war effort and to help democracy. Why doesn't Mr. King get the best men possible to help him, irrespective of politics? Why doesn't the Premier of Ontario do the same and confer with the Opposition so that legislation which is necessary can be passed quickly, without loss of time?"

Wants Practical Men.

Mr. Acres claimed that one of the reasons all is not right in agriculture in Ontario was that there are too many white-collared men going around telling the farmers what to do and how to do it. As a result the young people on the farms were becoming disheartened and leaving.

"Get more men around you who know farms from the practical angle," he said to the Minister of Agriculture. "Never mind those fellows who talk nothing but markets and figures. Get opinions from practical men, and follow their advice, and you will do much to help remedy the situation in which agriculture is at present."

He advocated a flat rate for Hydro for all farms in the Province, and said that the Government could easily find money with which to instal electrical services on all farms.

"Previous Governments have carried on without the assistance of the huge sums derived from gasoline and liquor taxes. They built highways and did other things to improve conditions in the Province, and I say that if the present Government had to work along with the revenues they had then it would not last long enough to be criticized. The Conservative Government never made one-quarter the mistakes that this one has, although the present one is trying to cover up by offering some things to the farmers," said Mr. Acres.

"Your Government," he said, directing his remarks to the Minister of Highways, "was not elected to build four-lane highways to take the members of the Cabinet home from Toronto. Your building program is ruining the United States

tourist trade. The Americans come here to get away from the congested traffic conditions about their large cities, and they run into heavily travelled roads here. You are building these roads with the money derived from the gasoline tax; you are taking it from the people on the back concessions to build four-lane highways between the main cities and doing nothing for those on the back concessions. Yet you claim to represent the farmers. The gasoline tax is the best, the fairest tax in the Province, and it should stay."

Asks Beer Referendum.

Mr. Acres expressed his disapproval of the way beverage rooms are being conducted, and advocated a referendum as to the method of selling beer.

"Throw out the chairs and tables," he said, "and then let the people say if they want that system restored. As they are at present, they are breeding a poor race, and if there is another war in twenty or thirty years we will not have the same type of splendid manhood which is now joining the forces."

Mr. Acres threw down his challenge to the Government at the outset, when he declared: "I don't believe we've got a surplus of \$12,600,000, and if true, I don't think there is any credit to the Government or to the Prime Minister to have one in the times we have to face."

He charged that, to make the "sunshine" pre-election budget of 1937, the Treasurer transferred from the deposits of the Provincial Savings Bank a sum of \$31,000,000 "in order to balance the budget." He wasn't saying that the Government did wrongly, but he wanted to know if the depositors were protected. On its farm loan policy, he charged also that "this present Government has done more than any other thing to destroy the credit of farmers."