

SINCLAIR DEMANDS CLEAR STATEMENT AS TO REFERENDUM

Feb. 13th

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actual cost of production and transportation, so that the people of the Province may get the best of benefit from it."

Must Develop Hydro.

Respecting Hydro, Mr. Sinclair said that the St. Lawrence was the one large source of supply which looked most readily available for eastern and central Ontario. The situation was one not easily settled and was fraught with difficulties. There were engineering, international and interprovincial problems to settle. "These questions, if possible, must be settled, and it is the duty of this Legislature, regardless of political affiliation, to lend its assistance for the further development of electrical power for the future development of Ontario."

The Liberals viewed the Hydro the same as the Conservatives, he said. Efforts had been made from time to time to show that the Hydro had been the product of Conservative minds and that the Liberals were antagonistic to it. "What I wish to say is that the Liberals are as anxious for the future development of Hydro in this Province as any other section of the community, and Liberalism in this House will render every assistance it can for the development of light, heat and power for the future welfare of the people of Ontario."

Mr. Sinclair discounted the high claims made by the Government in reducing dispensary prices for liquor, as he felt it was a small reduction in cost—about \$1 on \$200—compared with the expenses one went through while experiencing illness.

Mystery Regarding O.T.A.

Coming to the Ontario Temperance Act, Mr. Sinclair said that the reference to a possible referendum was one of the clauses in the Speech from the Throne which was "most beautifully worded," because it was most difficult to understand. From readings of speeches made by different persons, I am led to the conclusion that the clause in the Speech from the Throne is not, as some think, an indication that there is to be a referendum on this question," he remarked.

Elaborating this view, Mr. Sinclair said that the mover of the reply to the Speech from the Throne had made only passing reference to the subject, and the seconder none at all. The member for Southwest Toronto (Mr. McCausland) had said some time ago that if a referendum were not brought before the House he would move that the question be submitted to the electorate. He had not done so, and the only conclusion one could come to was that he had submitted to fate and did not propose to move such a resolution. Then, the member for Southeast Toronto (Mr. Currie) had a resolution calling for a referendum. Surely he would not move thus if the Government had decided to have a referendum.

What About Referendum?

Mr. Sinclair quoted, further, a statement by the Ontario Alliance, expressing satisfaction that the Government would stand by the O. T. A., and also from a speech of

the Prime Minister last fall, in Toronto, stating his stand on the subject. The announcement in the Speech from the Throne did not say definitely and explicitly that there was to be a referendum. When the Premier spoke in this debate, continued the Liberal Leader, he would have an opportunity to extend comfort to some of the followers behind him, regarding statements—made in public—by which votes given to members not on the Opposition side of the House, had been materially increased.

The Premier had spoken last fall of submitting the question to the people "when public opinion demanded it," continued Mr. Sinclair. In his speech on this debate he would have the chance to say just how great this volume of public opinion now was; how it was communicated to him, and how, finally, he was able to come to his conclusions. "The whole Province is interested in knowing from the Prime Minister just what the clause means and the attitude of the Government on this very important question, and until an announcement is made by the Premier, members on this side of the House are unable to speak authoritatively as to what is in the Speech from the Throne. I think the people of Ontario are interested in knowing, and at the earliest date possible, just what the Government has in mind, especially in view of the wording of this clause."

"Follow Us," Says Doherty.

Hon. Manning Doherty also added his congratulations to the Speaker, and caused some stir in Government circles by referring to his group as the "majority Opposition," and to the Liberals as the "minority Opposition."

In the past 25 years the Anglo-Saxon peoples had become industrially insane, asserted Mr. Doherty. They had become possessed of the idea that, by building up tremendous centres of population, the country was on the way to prosperity. In his opinion, 75 per cent. of the trouble in Europe today was due to over-industrialism. "I want my honorable friend, the Prime Minister of this Province, to keep it in mind that industrial development is all right, it is desirable, but hand in hand with that we must have the development of the great basic industry of agriculture."

Mr. Doherty hoped the Premier would have the determination "to trample under foot his natural proclivity to play politics with every situation that develops." He hoped that he held at bay the great army of office-seekers, and he asked him to "study carefully, and follow as far as he can, the policy of the Government he has succeeded. If he follows the policy of the late Government in his appointments to the civil service he will have done a great work for the Province." In four years the Drury Government had made more appointments from outside its party than any other Administration had done in thrice the time, he said. These remarks were greeted with ironical laughter from Conservative benches. Mr. Doherty moved the adjournment of the debate.

Resuming Debate on Reply to Speech From Throne, Liberal Leader Challenges Premier to State in Plain Wording His Intentions Regarding Vote on O.T.A.—Says Public Desires Information

DOHERTY EXTOLLS LATE GOVERNMENT

In a speech calculated to drive the Government into the open in respect of its intentions regarding the Ontario Temperance Act, W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., Liberal Leader, covered the whole Administrative program for the session in an able address delivered yesterday in the Legislature. It was Mr. Sinclair's first effort as Leader, and he was in excellent form, as he carried on the debate on the reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Sinclair declared that the speeches and actions of Government leaders and followers seemed to indicate that there was no intention of holding a referendum, and he called upon the Prime Minister when the latter arose to address the House to let the people know "what the Government has in mind, especially in view of the wording of this clause in the Speech from the Throne."

Liberals Behind Hydro.

The Liberal Leader urged the Government in its efforts to provide Canadian fuel to supply this fuel at actual production and transportation cost. He declared also that Liberals, as much as Conservatives, were in favor of hydro development throughout the Province.

Hon. Manning Doherty, Progressive Leader, warned the Premier what he termed the "danger" into which many countries were running: that of over-industrialism. He urged him to "trample under foot" his proclivities to "play politics," and cited the policies of the Drury Government as a model which the new Government could follow with profit to the country.

Many Items Overlooked?

Mr. Sinclair opened his speech by congratulating the Speaker on his appointment, and added that, when a ruling was once given, he hoped members would abide thereby, "and not do as they do in school, speak back to the teacher." The Speech from the Throne, he said, did not speak with that definiteness expected from a Government having the overwhelming majority this Government had. He had expected a definite and positive reference to restriction along lines of expenditure. This was one of the items overlooked, or, else, they were not to look forward to any cutting down of public expenditure.

Some definite policy respecting the great problem of reforestation should have been in the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Sinclair continued. One would expect, also, he added, a reference to the problem of the unemployed and an endeavor to find a solution therefor.

Coming to matters which were in the Speech, Mr. Sinclair said that the fuel question was one of the most urgent before the people, and he desired to commend the Government, he said, for what action it had taken already. The difficulty was a matter of freight rates, and if a solution could be reached it would be of great value to Canada. In connection with this problem, Mr. Sinclair said he believed every effort should be made to keep the handling of this coal out of the hands of middlemen and dealers. "This is the point I urge on this Government in the distribution of this coal; that it be delivered to the people at the

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Quits Co-operative Company To Devote Time to Leadership

Hon. Manning Doherty has resigned from the Board of the United Farmers' Co-operative Company. He told The Globe last night that since his appointment as Leader of the Progressive group in the Legislature he felt he had not the time to do justice to his office in the company. He had not been able to attend the last two meetings of the Board of Directors, he stated, and it was essential that the men at the head of the U.F.O. should be free to devote their time toward making a success of that undertaking.

Hon. Mr. Drury will continue to act as a director of the company. A successor to Mr. Doherty has not yet been appointed by the board.