

He did not agree that the loss on selling loans under par should be treated as ordinary expenditure.

Provincial assets, he said, had not decreased by the large amounts charged by Mr. Nickle, and accounted for the difference in the two years by pointing out that although the full amount of two loans specified had been placed in liabilities, there was on one loan \$477,000 and on the other nearly \$5,000,000 which had not yet been received on account of the loans.

Ten millions of the \$45,000,000 it was proposed to borrow, he said, would be for refunding loans. He said he would shortly bring in legislation for a \$10,000,000 issue to take care of succession duty free bonds which the Government were buying for sinking fund purposes.

Hasn't Always Exceeded.

Mr. Smith said at the outset that the Government had not exceeded estimates in almost every department, which had been the view put forward by the Opposition members. He quoted the figures showing the moneys spent by each department and the amount of money voted for each, the balance being favorable in nearly all cases. Answering Mr. Dewart, he said that the vote of fourteen millions on highways, shown in the Public Accounts, was not an appropriation.

The Provincial Treasurer held that the estimates had been exceeded in only two departments—the Hydro and the Attorney-General's Departments. He then read a report of a speech made by Sir Adam Beck at Belmont, saying of Mr. Ferguson's criticism of the rural distribution act regarding Hydro passed last session: "I don't want a political fight with anyone, but when politics are being played I want the people to know it. He (Mr. Ferguson) says the present Government has given the farmers a bone but not the meat, but his Government did not even give them the bone."

Owing to the lateness of the hour, the Treasurer's speech was made to many empty benches and almost empty galleries. He went over, item by item, the criticisms of Mr. Nickle of Kingston, and, in what developed into a sort of cross-floor informal discussion, came to agreement with the member for Kingston in many instances as to the correct accounting of particular items, or, as often happened, the two members simply agreed to disagree.

The Treasurer's address concludes the Budget debate, except for the three leaders—Messrs. Ferguson, Hay and Drury—all of whom are expected to speak on Tuesday next.

COMMISSION TO PROBE DEATH

A. C. Lewis, M.P.P., Claims Attorney-General's Department Has Been Lax in Investigation and Alleges Influence Was Used to Spread Report of Suicide and Burke Inquiry

VICTIM POSSESSED VALUABLE PAPERS

Immediate investigation by Royal Commission into all the circumstances surrounding the death of Captain Orville Huston at Fort Frances in December last was promised in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Attorney-General Raney, following charges of an exceedingly grave nature launched by A. C. Lewis, Conservative member for Northeast Toronto.

The death of the officer, who was found shot through the heart, his papers scattered, according to Mr. Lewis' statement, along the path against the direction of the wind, was the subject of investigation by a Coroner's jury, which returned an open verdict. Yesterday in Mr. Lewis' address, for the first time since the tragic occurrence, the name of a prominent man was mentioned.

Mentions E. W. Backus.

After charging the Government with laxity in investigating the matter, Mr. Lewis said: "The evidence all points to the fact that this man used his influence—and he has evidently a tremendous influence, not only on this Government in the matter of timber limits, but in other ways—"

Hon. Mr. Raney—Who has?

Mr. Lewis—Mr. Backus—that this man used his influence to spread the report that Captain Huston committed suicide, to fill the minds of the Government investigators that Huston suicided, and to burke a proper investigation of the case.

Mr. Lewis also made the accusation that Inspector Jeffry, who conducted the investigation for the Government, had seen R. T. Harding, K.C., before leaving for Fort Frances, and went there with his mind made up that Huston had committed suicide. Mr. Lewis would not admit to the Attorney-General, however, that he was charging the perversion of a police officer.

House Sits Tense.

During Mr. Lewis' statements the Legislature sat tense. Attorney-General Raney sought to interrupt at one point to correct a statement which, he said, was erroneous. Mr. Lewis declined to permit it, and was upheld by Hon. G. H. Ferguson. The Speaker ruled to allow the Attorney-General to make the correction, and the Conservative Leader promptly

threatened to appeal to the House from the ruling. Compromise was finally agreed upon when W. F. Nickle, Kingston, suggested that Hon. Mr. Raney speak at the conclusion of Mr. Lewis' utterance.

Mr. Lewis said, in opening his contribution to the Budget debate, that the Attorney-General's Department rested under grave suspicion in the minds of people in the district, who were acquainted with the facts, by not having endeavored to bring out all the facts in connection with Captain Huston's death.

Scorns Suicide Theory.

He proceeded to repudiate the suicide theory held by the officers investigating the case, by pointing out the following facts: that, although only one bullet was found in the body, four chambers of the revolver found at his feet had been emptied; the torn condition of the clothing and laceration of the left wrist; his papers were scattered along the path in the direction he was going and against the direction of the wind; Captain Huston was left-handed, and it would have been impossible for him to have shot himself through the heart in the manner stated; that a young lady had heard cries for help on the night in question and also three shots fired.

These facts, he said, should readily have convinced officers conducting the investigation of the possibility of his having been murdered.

Going on to discuss Captain Huston's business affairs, he suggested that there were those who would benefit by the recovery of certain papers he was supposed to have. Asked by Hon. Mr. Raney who these parties might be, he said:

Interested in Papers.

"There was one man in particular—I do not say one man who desired Huston's death—but one who was interested in gaining possession of certain papers Huston was thought to have about him when he was in Fort Frances, and as a result of an endeavor to secure these papers it is reasonable to suppose Huston met his death."

He told how Huston had secured a reduction in freight rates on pulpwood from northern Manitoba in order to sell to the Fort Frances mills.

"The owner of the mills," he said, "who had agreed with Huston to