

SHARP ATTACK ON POWER POLICY

The Member for West Middlesex Scores the Easements Method.

NEW PRIMERS NO GOOD

Dr. Proudfoot Tells Whitney His Wonderful School Book Will Be Called In.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Toronto, Feb. 11.—The Legislature spent three hours yesterday listening to the arguments of three Opposition and two Government members in the debate on the budget. The first speaker, Mr. McCormick (East Lambton) criticised the Government for abolishing model schools. Mr. Shillington (Temiskaming) continued his speech by some well-considered suggestions for the benefit of New Ontario. The next three speakers, Mr. Elliott (West Middlesex), Mr. Ross (Monck), and Mr. Proudfoot (Centre Huron) gave considerable attention to the hydro-electric power policy from their opposing standpoints. Mr. Proudfoot also stated that the new school primers were no good and would have to be called in.

Mr. H. P. Innes (North Norfolk) introduced a bill respecting vaccination and inoculation, which seeks to abolish compulsory vaccination. Municipal councils now have the right to pass bylaws to enforce compulsory vaccination. Some councils have at times passed bylaws compelling all persons, old and young, and irrespective of their state of health, to be vaccinated, much against the will of many citizens. Some persons oppose vaccination on the ground that it causes injury or death. In a recent prosecution in the town of Simcoe, witnesses swore that relatives had died after vaccination, while others had never recovered from its effects.

Mr. Innes' bill would repeal the present act, and leave vaccination optional with the individual. Personal liberty, Mr. Innes holds, should be respected in this matter.

The Budget Debat. In resuming the debate on the budget, Mr. McCormick (East Lambton) voiced the sincere regret he felt, in common with the other members of the House, at the painful accident which had overtaken the Provincial Treasurer. The Provincial Treasurer, he said, went out to Hon. Mr. Matheson in his sufferings. Mr. McCormick expressed his heartfelt wish that the Provincial Treasurer would make a rapid recovery, and that he would soon occupy again the seat on the treasury benches which he graced so well.

Mr. McCormick said the farmers of the Province deserved all that could be done for them. He would hold up both hands in favor of increasing the fall fair's grant from \$70,000 to \$100,000. He thought the Minister of Agriculture had the most important position in the Government.

Mr. McCormick thought that townships should be divided into wards, as he had done in his day, otherwise he did not think he would ever have been elected to the council.

Mr. McCormick, in conclusion, referred to the unwisdom of abolishing the model schools in favor of the new normals. Intending teachers, instead of attending model schools near their homes, had to go now to great big cities, where they had to make large expenditures. Under the present system the poorer classes were cut out; only rich men's sons and daughters could become teachers, and he instanced a case where a rich man's son was so independent that at the first word of criticism he left his school vacant. The teachers who were getting larger salaries were satisfied with the new educational conditions, but Mr. McCormick foresaw disaster for the Province if the model schools were not restored. As for the assessment act, he believed that assessment should be on land only, and not on improvements. "With these few remarks," concluded

Mr. McCormick, "I shall get out of the road."

New Ontario's Needs.

Mr. Shillington (Temiskaming) confined himself mainly to the conditions in and needs of New Ontario. The surplus earnings of the Temiskaming Railway, he contended, should be put back into the northern country. The railway had been first built as a colonization line, and should be continued as such, and this implied giving New Ontario a service at cost. The older portion of Ontario should not for some years regard the T. and N. O. Railway as a source of revenue. Mr. Shillington favored the extension of the railway from Charlton to Sudbury, and he believed that New Ontario should have at least one representative on the railway's commission. Mr. Shillington thought that the appointment of fire rangers should be left to the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, and his subordinates, instead of having appointees recommended by members. Mr. Shillington had seen incompetent men sent out as fire rangers, some of them having never seen a canoe before. Mr. Shillington suggested a system of trunk roads in every township, and advocated a main trunk road from Latchford to the G. T. P. Railway. The lands granted to veterans in Northern Ontario were for the most part lying idle, and Mr. Shillington thought the holders should be either bought out by the Government or compelled to develop their lands.

Referring to Mr. McEwing's (West Wellington) criticism of the reduction of certain mining royalties, Mr. Shillington pointed out that enormous amounts—ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 in some cases—were necessary to develop a mine before any profits accrued. Mr. McEwing, as a farmer, would certainly object to being as heavily taxed for energy as the miners were now taxed.

Coal was now the greatest silver camp in the world, Sudbury the greatest nickel camp, and Mr. Shillington believed Porcupine would prove the greatest gold camp in the world. It was essential that the eyes of the Legislature should turn to Northern Ontario in order to ascertain the needs of the country. Mr. Shillington said he had intended to bring in a bill to regulate the hours of miners working underground, but as he understood a commission had been created to investigate the whole subject, he would defer his bill.

In concluding, Mr. Shillington said that if older Ontario would join hands with New Ontario, the scheme of the latter would do their share in maintaining this as the banner province of the Dominion.

Mr. J. C. Elliott.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex), after endorsing Mr. Shillington's views to the needs of the north, criticized the Government for its lavish increase of expenditure, and pointed out how it was reaping the benefit of legislation which it had enacted in Opposition. Mr. Elliott then went fully into certain aspects of the hydro-electric situation. He was not opposed to cheap power; the cheaper, the better was his view; but he did not think that legislation for one class should interfere with the interests of the province at large. The mass of the people would not benefit by the power policy for years to come, therefore, they should not have to bear a heavy and unnecessary burden for the few who would benefit. The farmer who had honestly acquired and worked his land should expect the protection of the Government, instead of being subject to legislation which gave the tenant commission the right to enter upon and take his land, paying him what, how and when it saw fit. The farmer had also the right to bring suit for damages caused by wires instead of having to ask the attorney-general for a fiat. The Government should not be in a position to endanger from dropping wires. If that was the case, no harm could be done the province by giving the farmer the right to sue, for though he would never have to exercise the right, if the Government's claim was well-founded, he would be reassured by possessing the privilege.

The Case of London.

Mr. Elliott then took up the case of London, and other municipalities which had voted on the straight proposition of purchasing power at their city or town limits at a certain maximum price. After the vote had been taken, and decided in the affirmative, the scheme had been changed, and wisely so, he considered, for there was no reason why it should be undertaken under conditions which would

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produce a deficit to be met by the province at large. Under the new terms, the municipalities would buy the power at the Falls, and pay its cost there, plus the cost of transmission.

Hon. Mr. Beck—I wish to take exception to the honorable gentleman's statement. The scheme has never been changed.

Mr. Elliott repeated that the bylaw upon which the citizens of London had voted in January, 1907, had named a maximum price at the city limits. He desired to ask the minister of power who would have had to put up for the deficit if one occurred. He also desired to know why, if the scheme had not been changed, the act of 1907 had been passed to compel the municipalities to take powers under a different contract than that which they had voted upon? If the scheme was to have municipalities pay the cost at the Falls, plus the transmission cost, whatever it might be, why was that not set out in the act of 1907? Mr. Elliott contended that the citizens of London and other municipalities should have had an opportunity of passing upon the changed conditions of their contracts. He admitted that the Government had naturally desired to facilitate the speed of the work so as to hasten the delivery of power, but that was no excuse for the Government's attitude in overriding the ordinary rights of the citizens. The Government's course had resulted only in giving the maximum of dissatisfaction with a minimum of speed. In closing, he reiterated his conviction that the ratepayers should have the chance to vote upon the changed contracts, and that the rights of landowners should be secured to them where wires passed over their farms.

Defends Government.

Mr. J. A. Ross (Monck), defended the Government's general policy. The abolition of the model schools was one of the best things ever done for education. The public schools today were poor men's schools. The Government had increased the expenditure simply because they had the money, and were spending it wisely and economically. The chief objection to the hydro-electric policy came from the electric ring, party politicians, and lawyers looking for a job. The Opposition should think well of the Government power policy, for Hon. Clifford Sifton had said it was one of the greatest undertakings in the world. The farmers were being protected, and were receiving from \$50 to \$150 for each acre, simply by allowing towers to be erected, yet the Opposition harped on the woes of the poor farmer. Speaking of the Pelker case, now before the court of appeal, Mr. Ross said that Mrs. Felker had been offered \$200 for the privilege of erecting two towers on a farm that cost only \$1,000, and would have taken the money once, and would have been perfectly satisfied if it had not been for the electric ring and certain legal luminaries not far from Welland. Mr. Ross suggested an increase in fish hatcheries and technical schools.

Pruds Premier.

Mr. Proudfoot (Centre Huron), said no Government had much to do with the prosperity of a country. He approved of the expert's opinion in opening up the north country. Speaking of law reform, he said the system of making agreements as to the costs of suits beforehand was unworkable. No lawyer ever worked that way when taking a case. Mr. Proudfoot said the new school books were a job lot, otherwise they could be purchased for 49 cents. The books had been discarded in the East Lambton schools. The Government would have to call them in.

"Explain," shouted several members. Mr. Proudfoot—"They're no good."

Sir James Whitney—"And yet other provinces are asking us to get them the same books."

Mr. Proudfoot—"With the name of T. Eaton on the cover."

A member—"Wasn't the name of W. J. Gage on the old books?"

Mr. Proudfoot—"Well, that's a different kind of a firm."

Several members asked for explanation, and Mr. Proudfoot repeated that all the primers would have to be recalled.

Sir James—"In the absence of the minister of education, I have only to say that another province has decided to publish books precisely similar to ours."

Mr. Proudfoot—"When they see the books they will not put them out." (Opposition applause.)

Mr. Proudfoot said he would not criticize the power scheme because he hoped the Government would amend the act in the matter of easements. The statement of the previous speaker, that the Opposition and Crit politicians were fighting the whole power scheme, was the most untruthful ever made in the House.

"It was the most truthful," interrupted the Premier.

The chairman of the commission, and the leader of the Government know that some of their own political friends are opposed to the scheme," said Mr. Proudfoot.

Mr. McKeown (Dufferin), moved the adjournment of the debate, and will resume next Tuesday.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. Hearst—On Monday next, bill to amend the public school act; also, on Monday next, bill to amend the public health act; also, on Monday next, bill to amend the consolidated municipal act.

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ILLEGAL TRAFFIC WORRIES POWERS

French Rated Worst Offenders in Permitting Sale of Arms in Africa

Brussels, Feb. 10.—Every European nation with colonial interests is much alarmed just now by the widespread prevalence of gun-running. Therefore the indefinite adjournment of the Brussels conference for the suppression of illegal traffic in arms, without the conclusion of any agreement on some of the most important questions at issue, has excited very strong criticism among those who appreciate the gravity of the situation with which the conference was called on to deal.

The original Brussels act of 1890 contained the most elaborate measures for checking the importation and sale of arms and ammunition to the natives of tropical Africa. It would be an exaggeration to say that the act has been entirely useless, but there is not the slightest doubt that the illegal traffic in arms has continued to flourish.

British Feel Result.

To mention only one instance, the Somaliland could not have pursued his triumphant career against the British as he has done had he not obtained large supplies of modern weapons of precision. Some of the powers are said to be lax in suppressing the traffic because vigorous action would conflict with their interests in other directions. There is unfortunately only too much reason to believe that France has not been entirely free from blame in this respect. Native shows have been allowed to fly the French flag in the Red Sea and along the South Arabian coast and

under its protection have engaged in traffic in both arms and slaves.

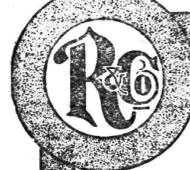
It is not suggested for a moment that such traffic has had the approval of the French Government, whose policy has been dictated by a desire to strengthen French political influence in these waters. But the testimony of well-informed authorities is that in practice the privilege of flying the French flag has been indiscriminately granted and correspondingly abused.

A few years ago the right of granting this privilege to subjects of the Sultan of Muskat was made the subject of arbitration by the British Government, acting on the Sultan's behalf. The decision went against the French Government. It is an extension of the traffic along the Arabian coast which has led in recent years to such an important development of gun-running in the Persian gulf, and it is no secret that it was desired to include this traffic within the scope of the recent conference.

cannot agree with the British Government to take effective steps to check the traffic owing to the influential character of French private interests engaged in it. Negotiations are now being continued between the two powers in the belief that this obstacle is not insuperable. Though they have received little publicity, there have been complaints in connection with several other matters that foreign interests have received but scant consideration at the hands of the French Government; and if it should really be found that French interests in the illegal traffic in arms stood in the way of the suppression of gun-running in the Persian gulf, the entente cordiale between England and France would suffer a serious blow.

Meanwhile the British Government has announced that it is intended to increase the naval force in Indian waters by two destroyers to cope with the growth during the last few months of the illicit trade in arms and ammunition along the Persian gulf and Arabian coasts.

The French Government, it appears,



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