

### E. C. Drury Called to Form Government.

The die is cast. The farmers, who, as a result of the election, find themselves the majority party in the Legislature of Ontario, are going to get the credit or the blame for the next administration according as that administration is good or indifferent. So long as the people generally continue in their present frame of mind, we believe the new Farmer-Labor coalition will be judged fairly, and with the small working majority Mr. Drury and his colleagues have, they will be obliged to depend, to a considerable extent, on public opinion for the maintenance and continuance of their Government. A more earnest and sincere group of men were never brought together for the purpose of constructing a Government, and if they fail to interpret the spirit of the people in their new legislation, and in the enforcement of that now on the Statute Books, it will be due to the lack of experience more than to the absence of a desire to honestly discharge their obligations and duties to the state.

On Wednesday, October 29, E. C. Drury, of Barrie, was unanimously chosen by the farmer members-elect to be the Leader of the new party. The names of J. J. Morrison, Secretary of the U. F. O.; Peter Smith, South Perth, and Beniah Bowman, of Manitoulin, were also put before the Convention, but they all withdrew, making the choice of Mr. Drury for the next Premier of Ontario unanimous. On Thursday evening Mr. Drury went home with the expectation of getting a little rest and putting his farm in shape before receiving a summons from the Lieutenant-Governor to form a Cabinet and carry on the Government of this Province. However, a very long respite was not granted, for on Saturday, November 1, Sir William Hearst tendered the resignation of his Government and the Lieutenant-Governor wired the new Premier to come to Toronto and confer with him in regard to his new responsibilities.

Ernest Charles Drury is known to the readers of this paper and Ontario farmers generally. He is one of the best extempore speakers in the Province, but never so much at home as when discussing the "iniquitous Canadian tariff." He is a formidable opponent in debate, and in this regard will compare very favorably with any Premiers the Province has had. In fact, politics is not new to Mr. Drury. His father was Minister of Agriculture in the Mowat Government, and the younger Drury has always taken a keen interest in public affairs, with more emphasis, perhaps, on federal than on provincial matters. When the U. F. O. was first organized in the spring of 1914, E. C. Drury was chosen as its first President to carry it through the trying period of childhood, and now that the farmer party must assume the responsibility of Government, upon his shoulders has been cast the burden of constructing a cabinet and guiding the administration during the first and most critical period. Mr. Drury himself says: "My friends sometimes tell me that I talk too much, but I have never yet had to take anything back." Another criticism of the new Premier is that he is perhaps a little too willing to accept every man at par value, and may not be critical enough of human nature. Mr. Drury himself is the embodiment of earnestness and frankness, and any mistakes he might possibly make in regard to the sizing up of the other fellow will be due to his own liberal possession of virtues which he expects to find in his brotherman.

The church and school are situated very close to the Drury homestead, and in the activities of these Mr. Drury has played a prominent part. As a local preacher he has an enviable reputation. A "local sinner" remarked to the writer when discussing the new honor which had been conferred on the Barrie District: "I don't know a preacher who can make a stronger or more fluent appeal than the same Ernest Drury."

#### THE PREMIER AS A FARMER.

In the year 1900, E. C. Drury completed his course at the O. A. C. and went back to farming in earnest, in partnership with his father on the Drury homestead at Crown Hill, which is a little community five miles from Barrie on the Penetang road, which is not considered populace enough under the new dispensation to boast of a post office. Two hundred acres of this farm have been in the family for a hundred years, but the farm now comprises 250 acres, and Mr. Drury has been sole proprietor for fifteen years. General and mixed farming is carried on and there is maintained a herd of from forty to fifty cattle, and a flock of about one hundred sheep, while forty to sixty hogs are annually marketed. The farm was originally stocked with Bates-bred Shorthorns, but when the Scotch Shorthorn boom came along public interest in the dual-purpose animal began to lag, and registrations in the Drury herd were neglected. However, the quality of the herd has not depreciated, and Mr. Drury was one of the pioneers in the rejuvenation of the dual-purpose strain of Shorthorns. When seen by a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate," at his home, late last week, Mr. Drury said that he would not on any account give up the farm, and that an effort would be made to carry it on if possible by employing a good man or men to operate it. The suggestion by the writer that he might be able to spare some of the officials from the Agricultural Department to conduct his farm did not induce the coming Premier to comment on the situation at Toronto, but he did jokingly remark that he had always been in favor of demonstration farms and perhaps this turn of events is commensurate with his own farm would present an opportunity for the carrying out of his wishes, in case it should be considered wise.

#### THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

When asked by a representative of this paper regard-

ing the spirit under which the new administration will be carried on, Mr. Drury replied: "Our motto will be efficiency, economy and no class legislation. However, I cannot do better than refer you to my address to the convention when I accepted the leadership." This address is reproduced in the following paragraphs:

"In accepting the position to which you have elected me I feel keenly sensible of the honor which you have conferred upon me, and also of the great responsibilities which accompany that honor. The position is unique in the political history of the Province, and, so far as I am personally concerned, is not one which I should have chosen, as I realize that the bed upon which you have placed me is likely to have more thorns than feathers in it.

"I do not, however, entertain any fears regarding the situation. It is true we may be lacking in experience, but the situation is not one, which calls for the fine arts of the politician. It is true that in a sense we represent the farming community; and, in all truth, that section of the people has been in great need for many years of a greater voice in the Legislatures of the

are called to power we must stand for no class legislation of whatever kind.

"Our legislative program must be framed for the benefit of every just and honest and legitimate interest in the Province. If in the carrying out of such a program the unjust and dishonest interests get in the way, so much the worse for the latter.

"If called to power one of our first administrative duties must be fearlessly and effectively to enforce the will of the people as expressed in the recent prohibition referendum. With that mandate I am personally in thorough accord and sympathy. We must see to it that it has effective enforcement. It may be that it will be found that there are loopholes or defects in the law which render it difficult to enforce. If so, it will be our duty to correct them.

"The people look to us to make an honest attempt to solve a problem which bears heavily on all, and which, as wages and prices of farm produce decline, may become an intolerable burden: the high cost of living. The solution of that problem in its entirety may not be within the power of the Provincial Legislature, but it will be our duty to investigate thoroughly the conditions surrounding distribution, and if we find that prices are unduly inflated as the result of obstructions or combinations in restraint of trade, to enforce vigorously such laws as will make these impossible.

"We are here as the result of a widespread conviction, not only on the part of the farmers, but on the part of urban dwellers also, that the two old parties have failed to achieve their ostensible purpose, that, namely, of government of the people, by the people and for the people. And my hope is that with your loyal support we may be able to advance the cause of true democracy. Thus, and thus only, will our existence be ultimately justified.

"I thank you again for the confidence you have bestowed upon me, which, in all humility, I shall try to merit."

Speaking more particularly of the different departments of Government and the matters which are more or less controversial, the subject of roads was introduced, and in regard to this Mr. Drury said: "The road policy of the new Government will be directed to the making and maintenance of market roads that will serve the majority of the people." "What do you have in mind concerning the educational policy?" he was asked, and in reply to which he said, "I am not prepared to make a statement in regard to this at present, but we intend to investigate the whole matter with an eye single to the improvement of rural school conditions."

Have the people any reason for fear that the new administration will be too conservative in their undertakings and in the expenditure of public moneys, Mr. Drury was asked. "No," he replied, "the only danger is that it may not be possible for us to be as careful as we should like. We will have to carry on undertakings that have been outlined on an extravagant basis, and it is just possible that the new administration may not be able to show as much economy as they would like."

#### MR. MORRISON EXPRESSES U. F. O. SENTIMENT.

Interviewed by a representative of this paper, in regard to the movement and the turn which events are taking, J. J. Morrison, Secretary of the U. F. O., said: "Since Mr. Drury has been selected as leader, I have nothing to say of a political nature concerning the new Government, or its aims. However, I am still free to express the views entertained by the United Farmers of Ontario." Mr. Morrison went on to say: "This new spirit of independence is not entertained by farmers only; it is broadcast in town and country alike. However, farmers took the initiative and since they did it is up to them to make good. We feel the responsibility very keenly and we have to demonstrate that this is not a class movement. There will be no class legislation; every branch of industry and society will be given due consideration." Questioned more closely regarding the coming administration, Mr. Morrison said: "The U. F. O. stands for progressive action in all departments of Government, with full regard to economy. There is no danger of the members going to the other extreme and becoming what might be termed penurious."

"A pleasing feature," said Mr. Morrison, "of all our conferences since the election has been the absolute independence of the members-elect and defeated candidates. There has been no office seeking among any of them. All have been willing and anxious to do their part but very reluctant in accepting honors."

It might not be inopportune to state here that Mr. Morrison's name for leadership was seriously considered, but it was finally decided that the existence of the Organization depended to such a considerable extent on Mr. Morrison's organizing ability and management that it would be unwise at this time to separate him from it.

#### PERSONNEL OF THE CABINET.

As we write, nothing has been made public concerning the personnel of the new Cabinet, which Mr. Drury will probably announce this week. Prominent U. F. O. men do not hesitate to state that Manning W. Doherty, the defeated candidate in Peel, will likely be selected as Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Doherty is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and was for several years a member of its teaching staff. In later years he has taken an active interest in local organizations, such as the Peel Milk Producers, and has been a member of the board of directors of the U. F. O. Co-operative Company. It is altogether likely, too, that Beniah Bowman, member elect for Manitoulin, will have a place in the Cabinet. It is not unlikely that Mr. Drury will go outside his own party for ministers, and, in the case of the Attorney-General, it will be necessary to select a lawyer member outside the field of Agriculture and Labor.



E. C. Drury.

The new farmer Premier of Ontario.



Hon. Dr. S. F. Tolmie.

Re-elected in Victoria in the recent by-elections, and now Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion.

Province and of the country, a voice which it is our duty adequately to supply. But in a very real sense we represent not alone the forty per cent. of the people who are on the farms, but also the great bulk of the common people of all classes, the people who are desirous of good government, of stability, efficiency and economy, and of the fair and equal enforcement of law. Our success, therefore, depends not on political manoeuvring, but on the breadth and fairness of our policy, and on our adherence to the high ideals of democracy and public service which have made this movement a vital thing in the life of the nation. May we not hope that before long this movement, which has had its birth in one particular class, may expand and broaden till it shall become not merely a Farmers' party, but in a very real sense a People's party.

"It is too early to speak of our legislative program. We have not yet been called on to form a Government, and it would be unwise to anticipate. We can, however, lay down certain broad principles which must and should govern us in the matter. Our war, in the past, has been waged on special privilege. We are not at this time going to abandon the principles of justice and fair play which have actuated us in the past. If we