

BUDGET DEBATE

(Continued From Page 1)

labor market, but was glutting the urban market.

Mr. Studholme advocated an extension of technical education by the Government, for the benefit of the artisan classes.

Speaking of the hydro-electric scheme, Mr. Studholme declared his conviction that the people of the municipalities would never repudiate their obligations to the Province. He denied that the opposition to the scheme came entirely from Liberals. He declared that the bitterest opponent of the power policy in Hamilton was the Conservative newspaper.

Mr. Studholme created amusement by his reference to a future time in the history of the Legislature, when it would have an honest Opposition. Sam Clarke took him up, and there ensued considerable chaffing. Mr. Studholme closed with a declaration that Ontario needed some real statesmen, like John Sandfield Macdonald.

Defends Education Department.

The next speaker, Mr. A. H. Musgrave (North Huron) had not proceeded far with his defence of the education department, when he drew the fire of Mr. McEwing (West Wellington), who had warmly criticised the department. Mr. Musgrave was reading school inspectors' reports from Huron County to refute statements made by Mr. McEwing, when a wordy war arose between the two members as to the authenticity of their respective statistics, which ended with honors about even.

Mr. Musgrave quoted figures showing that there had been no falling off in the efficiency of the schools. Mr. Musgrave contrasted the present conditions regarding school books with the action of the Mowat Government in authorizing three separate sets of readers, which caused great confusion and expense to parents. When that system was abandoned, the Mowat Government, in order to escape damage claims from the publishers, had itself not to reduce the price of books, and the people had to pay through the nose until the Whitney Government lowered the cost. Mr. Musgrave did not believe in free text-books, for he thought it was a matter of pride for a child to buy a nice, clean book when it was provided. In giving the publishing of the books to the T. Eaton Company, the Government had followed the principle of accepting the lowest tender. If the Government had not done so, the Opposition would have seized upon the fact as the choicest morsel of the session. The Opposition criticism had simmered down to a 4-cent primer. Mr. Musgrave referred to the old days when schools were not free, and the poor man could not afford to send his children to school, and he reminded Mr. Studholme of the benefit that the school system had been to the workman.

Mr. Studholme interrupted with the remark that he knew what had been done, but that the workman now needed higher education in his own mind.

"You've made your speech already," said the Premier to Mr. Studholme. Sir James was plainly irritated at the prolongation of the debate.

Mr. Musgrave finished the new normal schools, and the extension of the term, by saying that the model academic instruction, while it was thoroughly trained as it was in the case of lawyers or doctors. If the Opposition would drop its carping criticism of the education department, the people would have a chance to see the new system worked out.

Mr. Musgrave, in conclusion, stated that of the 64,000 acres comprised in the Gillies limits, only 1,200 had been sold.

Government's Poor Financing.

Hon. Mr. MacKay, leader of the Opposition, opened his address by calling attention to the chief characteristic, which annually recurred in the Provincial Treasury, was that the current annual receipts exceeded the current annual receipts. He did not point this out in any alarmist spirit, but he thought a remedy should be sought.

Mr. MacKay contended that the receipts from the crown lands should be classified as capital receipts, and he quoted from Hon. Mr. Matheson's speeches in Opposition to show that that gentleman once said the same view. Mr. MacKay said that after subtracting the receipts and expenditures which should fairly be placed in capital account, the Province last year had a deficit of a quarter of a million dollars. Mr. MacKay said he wished to consider the issue in a businesslike manner, and not in a narrow partisan spirit. It was the duty of the Government to devise some constructive system of financing, for if the present policy was persisted in, the timber wealth of Ontario would soon be depleted, and the Province's chief source of revenue would be gone. The United States had been warned 25 years ago, that the timber wealth of Ontario would be depleted. The Government of Ontario should take up the question of afforestation and reforestation. Mr. MacKay believed municipalities should be allowed to replant waste lands with trees.

Mr. MacKay had been amused at the hero-worship accorded by the Conservative speakers to the Government because it made the grants to agriculture and education. The sources of revenue which made these grants possible were all originated by the Liberals. While Liberal Ministers were down in the mines, digging channels by which the swollen wealth of the brewers, the distillers, the big corporations and deceased rich men, should flow into Ontario's coffers, the members of the present Government were there trying to hamper and destroy the work. The increased revenues of the Province were not due to the economy of the present Government, but to the constructive legislation of their predecessors.

The money was flowing in, but if the Government did not watch the tap, the funds would all flow out again. So far, however, Mr. MacKay was glad to know, the finances of the Province were in a safe and stable condition.

The School Question.

By wiping out the model schools, Mr. MacKay claimed that the Government was producing a dearth of teachers, because the normal-trained teachers went at once to the west. Mr. MacKay had predicted this four years ago. Now, he claimed, ten per cent of the normal schools had not properly qualified teachers. In his own riding of North Grey, 17 schools were vacant. The dominant note of the Government's departments today was the one-man power and centralization, and Mr. MacKay sounded a note of warning against this tendency.

Taking up the new school books, Mr. MacKay pointed out that they cost much more than 49 cents a set, for the Government had paid thousands of dollars in their preparation. Having

paid so much, the Government should have gone the limit, and printed the books, instead of turning over the work to a big store. The retail dealer could not handle the books, for there was not a cent of profit in them. Benefitting the Province of Ontario, and the province outside of Ontario, deserved some consideration. The net result of the matter was that half the province was advertising a departmental store which competed with the retail dealers in a hundred different provinces of the Province of Ontario would not approve of this.

Mr. MacKay thought the new readers were much inferior to the old ones in the matter of quality of paper, binding, etc., while the printer, at any rate, had been found to be wholly unsuitable for use, so far as its contents were concerned.

The province was doing a great deal for the pupil who went from the public school to the university, or its affiliated institutions of learning, but for the lad who left the public school to learn a trade, not one dollar was being spent by the province. There should be an evening technical school in every city in the province, an evening school on the most advanced lines, which would make the boy a thinking, scientific workman.

The Power Policy.

Coming to the hydro-electric commission, Mr. MacKay said that judging from Conservative speeches Mr. Beck and his colleagues had been the first to discover Niagara power. He referred them to the Ross Government's statute of 1903, which legalized the union of municipalities, and upon which all the subsequent legislation was based. Mr. MacKay reiterated Mr. Elliott's (West Middlesex) charge that the terms of the contracts with the municipalities had been changed after the ratepayers had voted upon the by-law. Instead of the commission selling the power to the city limits, the municipalities have to buy it. The ratepayers stand the risk of loss in the transmission. The conditions were so different that the ratepayers should have been allowed to vote a second time. While the municipality could not bind the ratepayers in money matters without their consent, but the Government had done so.

Those Easements.

The Opposition were in accord with the general scheme of cheap power, but not with the methods of the commission. The farmers had not been dealt with systematically and adequately. There should have been no ducking, for that was undignified for a great province. The agents of the province should never have been allowed to give the farmers a wrong point of view in working the scheme out. The farmers' rights should have been safeguarded by giving him the privilege of suing for damages for injury caused by wires, etc. The farmers should not have to prove negligence, but the commission line and all other public utilities, should be liable, prima facie, for all damage caused. The dangers inherent in the operation of these utilities should be sufficient warrant for giving the farmer the right to recover.

Mr. Beck interposed with the statement that the valuations of the right-of-way were not incompetent and inefficient. Mr. Fairley, of Belleville, a land buyer for the G. T. R., and a Liberal, was the final valuator.

The Gillies Limit.

Mr. MacKay wondered if Messrs. Musgrave and Donovan were as guileless as they appeared to be when they announced that the Government had sold 1,200 or 2,000 acres out of 64,000 acres in the Gillies limits. Nobody supposed that that whole area was unsurveyed. What had become of the information that the Government had obtained as to the limits? Mr. MacKay suspected that it had been given to some of the purchasers but not to all.

After recapitulating the chief points of his criticism, Mr. MacKay moved his amendment to Mr. Matheson's motion to go into supply.

Whitney Scolds.

Sir James Whitney, after the thunders of Government opposition had died away, expressed the hope that Mr. MacKay's speech was not his valdictory, as had been rumored. The members would be sorry to lose him from the House, and the Government would be well satisfied to have him keep his present post at the head of the Opposition. If Mr. MacKay took his departure, Sir James wondered who would lead the Opposition. Mr. MacKay would say as to Mr. MacKay's stand on certain points. Sir James wondered at the hatred shown by the Opposition to the magnificent power scheme of the Government, and the jibes and jeers levelled at the policy. The attacks made on the T. Eaton company and its head, Mr. John C. Eaton, should lead the latter to dread and avoid meeting Mr. MacKay in an alley on a dark night, the member for Ottawa (Mr. McDougall) was a clever man, despite his little peculiarities, and had he had anything to say in his criticism he could doubtless have said it well, but unfortunately he had nothing to say, and knew next to nothing of his subject. Hon. Mr. MacKay had told the province for the first time that there was a deficit in the finances of the Province. The other members of the Opposition and the Globe had failed to discover that fact, so the Premier would not waste further time on that claim.

Mr. John C. Eaton, said the Premier, had just given \$250,000 to Toronto General Hospital. It would be a long time before the whole Opposition would give \$250 to any such object. The Government had not "given" the school books to the T. Eaton Company, and he had accepted the lowest tender, and if they had not done so, the Premier would have been so fierce in his denunciation that the cover of his book would not have withstood his pounding for half a year. The Economic Society had been formed by a few out at elbow writers to send out circulars attacking the Government. Mr. MacKay had all along been in close touch with the ambassadors of the electric companies who were fighting the Government. Last session the solicitor for the Toronto Electric Light Company had drawn up a fearful and wonderful amendment for Mr. MacKay. The leader of the Opposition had read a number of statements regarding the acquiring of easements from the farmers, but had failed to furnish proofs. All the criticism of the Government was a string of denunciations and allegations, without an atom of proof. The claim that the prosperity of Ontario rested due to the former Government was very amusing. Sir James was very amusing. Sir James was true that he and his

HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES possesses a rare power of imparting a quivering intensity to all she writes. Her characters are creatures of fiery hearts. Her style dips into all the fountain heads of emotional language; it glows and palpitates. Her situations rivet the attention, stir up the nerves, play upon the feelings, arouse a personal concern or a personal antagonism. You unconsciously regard every character as a real person. You take sides.

All this is true in an unparalleled degree of *The Kingdom of Slender Swords*, her new romance of the American colony in Tokyo. It owns other amazingly striking qualities. Its plot is romantically intricate, but so wonderfully articulated that all the sensational incidents are prepared for and made plausible. They leap upon the startled faculties with a splendid surprise, but they justify themselves to reflection.

Especially in her love story does Miss Rives sweep the reader compellingly with her, so sweet it is, so transcendently pure in its passion. And, by the deftness of a consummate art, the richness and strange fascination of Oriental scenery are called upon to impart an exotic charm to the dramatic affair of this American man and woman.

The Kingdom of Slender Swords is excellently done, from the standpoints of characterization and setting, but it is always, first and foremost, a story. It is a story of love, of endeavor, of sacrifice, of triumph.

Barbara Randolph, from Virginia, is the leading lady, but little Haru, her maid, whose name means spring, who wears a butterfly in her hair, speaks with delightful quaintness, and lives in the street "Prayer to the Gods," is the heroine. In her silent devotion, her humiliation, her final abnegation, we see exemplified the wonderful reverence for country that is to be seen nowhere else in the world.

THE plot in *The Kingdom of Slender Swords* is big, and it moves logically through a succession of situations of close dramatic sequence and of high emotional quality. It is of international breadth, altogether a brilliant performance.

As a literary achievement, it readily advances on its predecessors, while in scope, in dramatic power, in charm of description, and in vividness of personal characterization, it sets for its author a new standard. Pictures in color by A. B. WENZELL. The price of this book is \$1.50 postpaid from the publishers, or at all booksellers.

The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Publishers, 9-11 W. Washington St., Indianapolis : 34 Union Square, New York

fellow Conservatives had voted against the corporation tax, not because they opposed the tax, but because the municipalities were given no share in the tax. Sir James took up the argument that the present Government was building only on the foundations left by their predecessors. He admitted that the House of Commons had been built on the ashes of burned bulwarks while the university reforms had been built on the starved service left by the Liberals.

Whitney Loses Temper.

A spirited verbal scrap arose when the Premier informed Mr. Elliott (West Middlesex) that the entire Conservative Opposition had voted in favor of the Temiskaming Railway. Messrs. Elliott, McDougall and MacKay all quizzed the Premier on this point, who finally refused to answer any more questions.

Sir James went into ancient history, by telling how the holders of an Onaping timber limit long years ago, induced the then commissioner of the crown lands to wrongfully extend the boundaries of their limits, after which he went back to teaching his Sunday school.

After the present Government took office the Globe began in close friendly criticism, until the worst enemies of the party intervened and prompted a most vicious attack on the Government.

A Heated Exchange.

A heated wrangle arose between Sir James and Mr. MacKay, when Sir James touched upon the hydro-electric scheme. The Premier alleged that Mr. MacKay had been for the past two or three years in alliance with the companies which were opposing the Government's policy.

Mr. MacKay—I distinctly deny that I have any alliance with any company.

Sir James—And I repeat that the honorable gentleman has been in such

EVER the versatility of Hallie Erminie Rives is cause for astonishment. No other novelist of our time covers so wide a range. Her first great popular success, *Hearts Courageous*, had to do with the early days of the American Revolution.

Its successor, *The Castaway*, was built about the proud and passionate figure of Lord Byron, and its romantic scenes were laid in England, in Italy, and Greece.

Then came *Satan Sanderson*, a story of to-day, a story of the West, full of vigorous Western action, but drawing its chief interest from a peculiar psychological problem of forgotten identity.

And now her latest story carries us to far Japan—not so far, either, in these days which have brought Nippon near to us in sympathy and admiration. *The Kingdom of Slender Swords* gives further proof of her versatility because it shows her dealing familiarly with the dreams of modern science and adapting the latest achievements of that science to the purposes of thrilling fiction.

This is her real distinction; not that she writes of many places, many times, many characters, but that she writes of them without superficiality.

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RISING to the most important theme that she has yet undertaken, Miss Rives has brought a brimming, infectious enthusiasm, and easily the best workmanship that she has ever commanded. Her new novel is unmistakably her most ambitious effort, it is also her most successful one.

In her selection, for setting, of Japan, a country toward which the eyes of the world are now turned; in the employment, in one crucial situation, of an air-ship, and in another of a phonograph; in the invention of the marvelous explosive that reduces to atoms any substance to which it is applied, Miss Rives has imparted to her work that peculiar appeal which only the highly modern touch gives.

One may say of it that it is up-to-the-minute in timelessness. Whatever view one may hold of the Orient, whichever side one's sympathies were on in the Russo-Japanese War, we all much agree that brave, blossomy little Japan is a country of extraordinary interest and extraordinary charm.

It is so gay, it is so brightly yet softly colored, its kimono-clad women are so demurely fascinating, its men, women and children alike are so splendidly, recklessly patriotic, that to Japan must be accorded a unique place in the world's picture and story books. It and its people are so daintily diminutive, it is *The Kingdom of Slender Swords*.

Of all this charm and beauty, Miss Rives writes evidently from a full heart. She has inhaled the fragrance of the lotus flower, and is content to remain in lotus-land. So broadly inclusive, so intelligent, so discriminating and so graphic are the pictures that she has drawn and colored of Japan and the Japanese that one feels the book may easily find large numbers of readers for its scenic descriptions and its general informative quality.

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