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FORD CITY BILL HAS BEEN APPROVED

TORONTO, March 10.—The private bills committee of the Ontario Legislature today approved a bill enabling Ford City to annex 1,124 acres. H. C. A. Masonville protested, saying that much of the new area was

farm land, and that there was already enough land sub-divided to accommodate the population of New York City. The committee also approved of the bill incorporating the town of Tecumseh, but refused to accept a suggestion made to it that in the act incorporating Riverside, east of Ford, there should be a clause naming the mayor, reeve and three councillors. The attorney-general said notice should have been given.



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LIBERAL LEADER CONDEMNS GOVERNMENT EXTRAVAGANCE AND IMPRUDENT BORROWING

Despite Increased Revenue of \$5,173,322, He Says Ontario Has a Deficit of \$812,848 — Government Has Failed To Make Good Promise To Abolish Patronage.

TORONTO, March 10.—The Ontario Legislature started in the last leg of the debate on the budget this afternoon. H. Hartley Dewar, K. C., Liberal leader, at the end of a two-hour speech, moved, seconded by W. E. N. Sinclair, that: "This House condemns the extravagant expenditure of the Government, involving, despite an increased revenue for ordinary receipts of \$5,173,322 for the last fiscal year, a deficit of \$812,848.33, and further deplores the imprudent borrowing of large sums at excessive prices for long terms, notably the loan of \$16,000,000 in December, 1920, and \$10,000,000 in February, 1921, without any vote of the House, appropriating the same to particular works or purposes, the last loan while the House was in session, contrary to constitutional usage, and the right of the people through their representatives in the Legislative Assembly to control and direct the expenditure of public moneys."

Scores Extravagance.
 Mr. Dewar described the mounting expenditures in department after department as "extravagance run riot." Mr. Dewar could not understand the attitude of the farmer members. Why were they silent?

The member for Southwest Toronto said there were two cardinal planks in the U. F. O. platform: (1) "To cut out all expenditures that are not absolutely essential," and (2) "To abolish the system of party patronage."

The Government had violated both principles, he said. Dealing with lawyers who had been so despised, Mr. Dewar said: "Never was such a raft of lawyers engaged as you have had to engage, because with your class system, you had not strong and competent legal brains in your combination to advise you, but the country has had to pay the piper."

Cost Was Heavy.
 The U. F. O. list, said Mr. Dewar, included ten judges and thirty lawyers. It had cost this province from \$250,000 to \$500,000 this year. The prime minister had promised that patronage would be abolished. That promise was now a broken reed. Mr. Dewar reviewed the financial situation and in closing said: "It is a far call from the speeches of U. F. O. speakers to the action of

the U. F. O. ministry. It is certainly time to call a halt. The Government will do well to listen to the note of warning sounded by the Hon. Mr. Doherty's paper, the Farmers' Sun, which says 'The provincial treasurer thinks the voice of criticism should speak louder than the credit of the province be shaken.'"

"There is only one thing that can shake the credit of Ontario and that is reckless borrowing and reckless spending. The duty of all good citizens, whether friends of the Government, or opponents of the same, is to demand in no uncertain tone that the brakes be put on, put on hard, and at once."

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Conservative leader, who spoke early at tonight's session, complimented the Liberal leader upon his speech and said that in his seventeen years as a member of the Legislature he had seldom heard an able speech. Mr. Ferguson said the people of the province had been staggered at the deficit reported by the provincial treasurer, which, however, had been reduced to \$802,000 by "peculiar methods of book-keeping" whereas the real deficit of ordinary revenue and expenditure was \$1,500,000. Hon. Peter Smith, he said, would be "wondered known for all time as the treasurer of a spendthrift government."

Highway Expenditures.
 Referring to the highway expenditures of Hon. F. C. Biggs, minister of public works, Hon. Mr. Ferguson said the Government would "go down in history as the worst aggregation of reckless spendthrifts ever known in the province."

With reference to the administration of the Ontario Temperance Act, Hon. Mr. Ferguson said the attorney-general had shown an utter lack of capacity to handle the situation. Mr. Ferguson said he hoped to have an opportunity to deal with the administration of the Ontario Temperance Act at some future time.

"You will," asserted attorney-general Haney.
 Mr. Ferguson condemned the attorney-general for making money for the Government out of race-track gambling and the liquor business and said the minister was "prepared to take from them his share coming from the prostitution of the morals of this province." Hon. Mr. Haney called Mr. Ferguson's attention to the fact that the province had no power to prohibit race-track gambling.

Mr. Ferguson suggested that the attorney-general appeal against the decision of the court as to the province not having power to prohibit race-track gambling, and the latter retorted that there was no appeal.

Premier Drury claimed that the Government had not done badly last year and had not been prodigal. Financial obligations of the previous government had to be assumed, he said. Referring to the Government's predecessors, the premier said:

Increased Public Debt.
 "During the year 1919 they had increased the public debt by nearly \$22,000,000. They had a deficit on the year's transactions of \$1,559,802, and they had collected a direct war tax of \$2,085,000. They also left a legacy of unpaid debts incurred during the previous year, \$98,000 for the general election and we had to assume an obligation of \$460,000 to the teachers' superannuation fund, which had been added by the retiring administration. In addition to this the cost of everything reached the highest peak in 1920. We had to pay about 15 per cent more for all supplies than was paid in 1919 and the cost of living rose in the same proportion to all the employees of the Government."

"In 1919 the ordinary revenue, including the war tax was \$19,904,772 and in 1920 we raised a revenue of \$23,078,024, or an increase of \$3,173,252 over the receipts of 1919. Not one dollar of this money was levied in direct taxation upon the people. The bulk of the increased revenue was brought in by means of taxes on amusements, luxuries, corporations, estates passing at death and receipts from mines and forests."

"The expenditure during the year increased from \$21,464,574, in 1919 to \$25,583,413 in 1920. This increase was used to pay off maturing debts. We have, therefore, to account for the balance, which amounted to \$3,846,602. The greater portion of this was used in what may be described as self-sustaining investments. We advanced \$18,076,500 to the Hydro-Electric Commission to carry on work begun before we assumed office and which must necessarily be completed in order that the investment already made may be made productive. We advanced to various municipalities under the housing act, \$4,226,708, which comes mainly from a Dominion loan for housing purposes, and which will be repaid with interest. These two sums amount for \$22,303,208 of our capital expenditure. Of the balance, \$10,832,296 we spent \$1,607,005 for Northern Ontario purposes, which included advances for permanent improvements of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, for colonization roads and for northern and northwestern development."

For Returned Soldiers.
 "The interests of returned soldiers called for a capital expenditure of \$445,844. We provided \$655,000 for educational buildings and \$910,000 for public buildings. Our capital expenditure on highways was \$6,664,989, but of this sum \$1,500,000 was spent on behalf of the Dominion Government and will be returned to the province. We may, therefore, fairly eliminate that sum from our capital expenditure, in arriving at the actual amount and it brings the capital outlay for the year down to \$9,382,296 as compared with the \$4,000,000 for which some critics of the Government would hold us accountable."

In conclusion, Mr. Drury pointed out that in spite of the largely increased expenditure on ordinary and capital account which he had explained, members of the opposite side of the House had motions on the order paper calling for further expenditures amounting to millions of dollars.

Hon. Peter Smith, provincial treasurer, who wound up the debate on the budget, said he was "absolutely opposed to earmarking anything for a specific purpose." "It can't be done successfully," he declared. Under his system everything was put into the consolidated revenue fund. "It's just put into a pot and everything comes out of it," he said. The provincial treasurer heartily agreed with the contention of H. Hartley Dewar that sinking funds should be provided for all loans. Last summer the Government had set aside sinking funds for loans not exceeding one-half of one per cent of the total loans he stated. Under R. S. O. Cap 23, the Hydro Act, the province had borrowed \$44,000,000. No less than \$77,000,000 had been paid to the Hydro so that we still owe ourselves from that loan \$15,000,000.

OTTAWA, March 10.—By the Commons today, Sir George Foster stated that census enumerators would be appointed by the census commissioners in each province, subject to the approval of the Dominion statisticians.

MUST BE APPROVED.
 WINDSOR, March 10.—On a charge of unlawfully keeping liquor for sale to the public, the information being laid under the O. T. A., Hugh Reame of Sandwich West Township was fined \$1,000 and costs in police court today.

CALLING CONFERENCE.
 BOSTON, March 10.—The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad today announced a conference of additional classes of employees to discuss a downward revision of their rates of pay effective April 15. Employees affected include supervisory forces, maintenance of way shops, offices, fire ion forces and dining car and restaurant employees. The date of the conference will be set later.

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