

# FERLEY REBUKES

## DIXON AND RIGG

### Ruthenian Member Declares Fellow Countrymen Are Loyal to Canada

### W. B. Findlater Praises Govern- ment for Help Given Farmers—

### ---Bills Read Third Time

### MANY HAVE JOINED ARMY

A rebuke to F. J. Dixon and H. A. Rigg, members of the legislature who recently made anti-war and anti-registration speeches, was administered yesterday afternoon by T. D. Ferley, member for Gimli, a Ruthenian by birth and representative in the legislature of the Ruthenian population. Mr. Ferley declared that while some of the things said by the two members might be well enough in times of peace, they should not be uttered now. He declared that the winning of the war was the paramount issue. The Ruthenian population in Canada came largely from Austria, a power with which Canada was now at war, but the Ruthenians were loyal to their adopted country. They had left Austria because they had been denied liberty and coming here they had found the liberty they desired. Many of their young men were fighting with the Canadians for the preservation of that liberty. The Ruthenian farmers were aiding the Patriotic and Red Cross funds, and rumors that the Ruthenians were hostile and prepared for an uprising were without foundation and absolutely false and malicious.

Other speakers on the debate in reply to the speech from the throne were W. B. Findlater, Gilbert Plains, and Jacques Parent, Morris. D. A. Ross, St. Clement's, moved the adjournment of the debate and will speak this afternoon. It is expected that the house will adjourn this afternoon to meet again Tuesday evening.

#### Loyalty of Ruthenians.

Mr. Ferley, during his significant address, said he would like to say a few words about the loyalty of his people. Most of the Ruthenians in Canada, he said, came from Austria. Mr. Ferley referred to a report which had been circulated that foreign-born residents of North Winnipeg had firearms and were ready for a rising. He said he was shamed by the story. There was not a word of truth in it. It was ridiculous and malicious. The Ruthenians in Canada were as loyal as any other citizens. They had no interest in firearms and uprisings. They came here from Austria, but they had no use for that country, as they were deprived of liberty there. They enjoyed liberty here and were ready to do their bit for their adopted country. Many of the young boys had joined the Canadian forces and Ruthenian farmers were making liberal contributions to the Red Cross and Patriotic funds.

Some of the statements made by Dixon and Rigg, said Mr. Ferley, were logical enough, but this was not the proper time to give them utterance.

"We are at war," said the Ruthenian member, "and everything should be subordinated to the winning of the war."

Mr. Ferley assured the house that the Ruthenian population was loyal to Canada and were prepared to make sacrifices for the flag which gave them a greater measure of liberty than they had enjoyed before.

Mr. Ferley congratulated the government on the progress it had made. Save for the abolition of bilingual teaching the legislation had all been beneficial. He said that Ira Stratton, the official school trustee, was doing good work, but under difficulties, as he could not speak the Ruthenian language. He suggested that a sufficiently qualified man be appointed to assist Mr. Stratton.

#### Praised Temperance Act.

The member for Gimli paid a tribute to the Manitoba Temperance act. It was a source of uplift to the community. He favored the abolition of the commission houses also.

and suggested that the house pass a resolution asking the Dominion government to forbid the manufacture and importation of liquor.

Mr. Ferley referred to the great need of good roads in Gilmour constituency. Much money had been spent in the past, but in such a way that results were hardly noticeable. For a few thousand dollars spent by the government this year there were more and better roads than had been obtained by the expenditure of many times that amount by the previous government.

Mr. Ferley also endorsed the Winkler cow scheme, which, he said, would prove of great benefit to the farmers in the newer and rougher regions. The rural credit scheme was also endorsed by the speaker.

#### Great Reduction in Crime.

W. B. Findlater, Gilbert Plains, congratulated the government on the good work done in the way of prohibition and referred to the police court records of Winnipeg, Brandon, St. Boniface and Portage la Prairie to show the great reduction in drunkenness and crime. While much had been done, only the foundation had been laid. The commission houses in Winnipeg and other places should be controlled and he hoped this would be done before the close of the present session.

Referring to education, Mr. Findlater agreed that the government had done good work, but there was room for more until a school was established in every district. The inhabitants in the north should have better roads to enable their children to attend school. It was the policy of the government to help those who helped themselves, and he hoped to see these people encouraged in their efforts to settle the north country.

#### Helping the Farmer.

It was encouraging to see the attention which the farmer was receiving at the present time everywhere throughout the Dominion. There was a time when the farmer had an uphill pull. The protected manufacturing concerns had been drawing the knotted rope about his neck for years. At present the house had legislation before it for the encouragement of the farmer which would be appreciated. He was particularly familiar with the "Cow Scheme" legislation. Under this act a competent buying official of the government had made some good purchases, and the money expended on cattle had been well spent.

He thought that a change in the game laws in the north country would be better for all concerned. There were many more female moose and elk than males. He would like to see more stringent laws for game protection, especially for those of moose and elk. He thought it would not be a bad idea to have a closed season for a time. Prairie chicken and partridge were becoming very scarce in his constituency and there should be a closed season for these. Mr. Findlater advised protection of the sheep in the north by encouraging the killing of wolves, which were devouring sheep in large numbers. He wanted to see improved railway transportation in his part of the province.

Mr. Findlater was sorry that it was necessary to say so much about National Service. He had, both in public and in private, advised his constituents to sign the cards. There might have been irregularities in the scheme, but the present was not the time to attack these. Canada had, he said, thousands of good men doing their bit and millions of patriotic ladies and others working best for the empire. It was not, therefore, a suitable time for persons who were not fighting to throw gravel into the driving gear of the empire.

#### Drainage Badly Needed.

Jacques Parent, member for Morris, discussed drainage problems in his constituency, which, he said, was having a lot of trouble. Relief from the government was urgently needed. Unless some assistance was secured, several families would have to leave their holdings. He was not prepared to take any excuse from the department of public works. In connection with the drainage, the various governments under which the districts had been organized were not wholly to blame. Engineers had failed to make provision for the volume of water which would rush over the district in the spring.

Mr. Parent wanted to know what were the intentions of the minister of public works in regard to the Jefferson highway. He understood that a practical pledge had been given to construct the highway to the international boundary. On account of the matter being in the air, municipal authorities were not doing road work, waiting for the government work. He hoped the road would be constructed very soon.

The proposed rural credits bill would, Mr. Parent thought, benefit the farmers, and it would get his support. Any bill that would benefit the province would get his support, no matter which party was responsible for it.

Mr. Parent said he wanted to refer to the Galt commission, which was still holding sessions. He challenged those who had made any insinuations as to his doing anything wrong while a member of the college board to make their charges freely and openly.

Mr. Parent, referring to the anti-

registration speeches of Dixon and Rigg, said he could not understand their attitude in view of the fact that they each have relatives in the army. He believed that if they gave the matter careful consideration, within fifteen days they would be in khaki themselves.

Hon. A. B. Hudson, prior to the adjournment, rose to say that no member of the government had ever said that Mr. Parent was involved in anything of an improper nature in connection with the college while a member of the board. Personally, he could not conceive of Mr. Parent being involved in anything of an improper nature.

### **Make Payments to The Pas.**

Premier Norris moved the second reading of a bill to legalize certain payments to the municipality of The Pas. He explained that when The Pas had been taken into the province with the added territory, the former government had granted to the municipality a sum of \$100,000 in cash. When the new government took office a deputation from The Pas had made representations that, besides the \$100,000, the former government

had made a promise of a grant of \$25,000 yearly to the municipality. Letters from the former premier, Sir Rodmond Roblin and the former provincial treasurer, Hon. Hugh Armstrong, substantiated the claims of The Pas to the extent that the grant of \$100,000 was not all that was promised. The premier said that the government of today and the representatives of the municipality of The Pas had come to an understanding whereby The Pas would accept \$50,000 as a full discharge of the promises which had been made. The bill provided for the payment of this \$50,000, and after this sum had been handed over to The Pas, where extensive improvements had been undertaken on the strength of the promises held out, the municipality would be on an exactly similar footing with all the other municipalities in the province.

The bill was given its second reading without opposition.

### Bills Read Third Time.

Third readings were given to four bills which had been introduced by Hon. A. B. Hudson. They were: A bill to amend the "Small Debts Re-

covery Act"; a bill to amend "The Law Society Act"; a bill to amend "An Act Respecting School Attendance"; and a bill to amend "The Children's Act."

Hon. Val. Winkler asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the "Game Protection Act" and one to amend the "Wolf Bounty Act."

George A. Grierson, member for Minnedosa, in the absence of Capt. J. W. Wilton, member for Assinibola, asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the "Municipal Act" and a bill respecting the rural municipality of Assinibola.

---