

GOVERNMENT CENSURED IN KAPUSKASING PLANS

Liberal Members Resent Drafting of Policy Before House Discussed Question.

The Drury Government encountered the most serious opposition it has met thus far this session, during the debate on conditions at Kapuskasing in the Legislature last night. Liberal members strongly criticized.

Major Malcolm Laing, of Cochrane, read the statement of the Government's policy with regard to Kapuskasing, which appeared in last night's Star, and inquired as to its accuracy.

Confirm Star Report.

"The report in The Star is correct," replied Premier Drury. "After waiting until all could be ready to discuss the commissioners' report, we brought the matter forward. We wanted the benefit of the members' opinions, but there was no discussion."

Chas. McCrea, of Sudbury, criticized the manner in which the subject had been placed before the House by the Government.

"The whole proposition has been staged with the express purpose of baiting the ex-Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines," he declared.

C. F. Swayze, Labor member for Niagara Falls, advocated the establishment of all the settlers on suitable farms in Old Ontario. Wilson Crockett, Labor member for South Wentworth, referred to the Kapuskasing settlement as "a gigantic blunder."

"The Siberia of Canada," was Sergt.-Major MacNamara's description of Kapuskasing. He considered that Albert Grigg, Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, was to blame for not reporting conditions at the colony, to the former Government.

Premier Drury offered an amendment to Major Tolmie's motion. The original motion called for adoption by the House, of the recommendations of the commissioner, and the amendment gave the Government power to modify the recommendations where it might be deemed necessary. The Prime Minister strongly upheld the Government's policy. Dismissal of Mr. Grigg, which had been demanded, would, he declared, be very improper. He expressed surprise that members of the late Government had not risen to assume responsibility for conditions at Kapuskasing.

"Does my honorable friend desire to suggest that I am endeavoring to shirk the responsibility, or to place blame on the Deputy Minister?" demanded Hon. G. H. Ferguson.

"I haven't heard anything to the contrary," replied Premier Drury.

"If so, his remarks are wholly unwarranted and gratuitous," continued Mr. Ferguson. "I accept full responsibility for what was done while I was Minister."

Clash on Service Records.

Capt. Jos. Thompson, Conservative whip, moved the adjournment of the debate, but Government and Liberal members dissented, and Mr. Thompson was requested by the Speaker to proceed.

After touching briefly on the subject, Capt. Thompson referred to the war record of the Conservative party. Forty per cent. of the Conservative members of the House, he declared, had seen service.

"What kind of service?" Col. Carmichael, Minister without Portfolio, demanded.

"Nine out of twenty-four men saw service," Capt. Thompson replied.

"Not as fighting men," Col. Carmichael persisted. "There are only three soldiers on this side of the House," he continued, his voice trembling with emotion, "but every one of them was a fighting man, and that's more than you can say."

The Speaker interposed at this juncture with a warning that such conversation across the floor of the House must cease. Col. Carmichael hastened to apologize for his share of what he termed the "breeze."

The Speaker was on the point of declaring the Premier's amendment carried, when Major Tolmie of Windsor exclaimed.

"Hold on, just a minute, we're not through yet."

Mr. Dewart, who had been absent from the chamber, returned at this point, and a whispered conference took place between him and Major Tolmie. The latter then requested that he be allowed to withdraw his motion.

Premier Drury asked that Major Tolmie allow his motion, which called for adoption of the commissioners' report by the House, to stand, as he pointed out that his amendment was so drafted as to depend on the motion.