

March 26th

GOVERNMENT SCORED BY ONTARIO ANGLERS FOR DELAY IN REPORT TAXES WILL DECIDE ISSUE OF ELECTION, SAYS TWEED

McCrea Hopes to Have Finding of Special Committee Soon

"BROAD NEW POLICY"

Strong criticism of the Government's failure to bring in the report of the special committee appointed two sessions ago to investigate the game fish problem in Ontario, was voiced before the Fish and Game Committee of the Legislature yesterday by Thomas Jull and President Sheedy of the Ontario Federation of Anglers, and by Gregory Clarke of Toronto, and was met by the statement of Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, that he hoped to have the document placed before him before the close of the present session and that "a broad new policy of administration and conservation" would in his opinion, result from it.

"Scant Courtesy."

Mr. Jull claimed that over a period of years representations had been made to the Government from his association but that no answer, one way or the other, had been received. He thought this silence "scant courtesy."

Mr. Clarke told the committee that the report had been written a year ago but when challenged by Mr. McCrea regarding his source of information, stated he merely "assumed" it had been written.

"I will repeat what I told the House last week," said Mr. McCrea. "The report has not yet reached my hands."

D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey) expressed the opinion that at the next meeting of the committee Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid, Chairman of the investigating committee, should be present and explain the delay in bringing down the report.

Mr. McCrea explained that a year ago it had been suggested to him that a summary of the committee's findings should be issued to the public, but that he had not, and would not, consent to such a procedure. It was, with him, a case of getting the completed report.

Whether there should be more enforcement officers, and where the money for this purpose was to come from, were, he stated, problems for the Government. He hoped that when the committee's report was available there would be thorough discussion of it all over Ontario, and that the result would be the building up of a new spirit of co-operation and harmony between the sportsmen and the department.

"In my opinion, the next Provincial election will be determined on the taxation of the present Government," declared S. C. Tweed, Liberal member for North Waterloo, in an address delivered yesterday to the Toronto Men's Liberal Association at its monthly luncheon in the King Edward Hotel.

Mr. Tweed referred to the Old Age Pensions Act, and expressed the opinion that pensions should be paid by the Federal and Provincial Governments, instead of under the present arrangement, whereby the Province placed 20 per cent. of the amount on the municipalities.

"As a rule, rural portions of the Province are not in favor of this, and are particularly opposed to the counties paying the cost," said Mr. Tweed. "This and other matters, such as the cost of elections, will provide the issue in the next election. The Premier says, for instance, that \$2,000,000 of the Government's revenue is direct taxation, and the remainder is just payment for services. Well, if the pill goes down better this way, I do not blame him."

Mr. Tweed drew attention to the fact that he had been able to secure a reply from the Government on the amount of unpaid taxes. One item, he stated, amounted to \$123,000 for gasoline tax;

but the Government had refused, on the ground of public interest, to divulge the name of the company.

"There is no reason why there should be arrears for gasoline tax," said Mr. Tweed. "Corporations operating race-tracks owe the Government \$60,000. These corporations are the Hamilton Jockey Club and the Belleville Riding Club, which operated a course at Stamford Park. All told, there is \$405,000 owing the Government."

Ald. George Ramsden stated that the city felt it should not be compelled to pay money for old-age pensions. The Alderman pointed out that the city did not begrudge the amount it was spending on pensions, but felt it should have a portion of the gasoline tax and profits from the sale of liquor.

"The Government may say it is not in the public interest to divulge the name of a company in arrears for taxes, but I say it is not in the Government's interest," said the Alderman.

J. C. McRuer, Treasurer of the association, stated that the next election lists would be complete, and would not contain the names of voters who had died or who had left the country. As a consequence, he said, the election would be conducted in a straightforward manner, with the platforms of the parties determining the result.

Main Estimates for Ontario Total \$68,000,000 for 1931

A vote of moneys totalling \$68,002,212 to carry on the Province's business for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1931, is contained in the main estimates introduced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday.

The forecast expenditures of the various departments are as follows: Lieutenant-Governor's Office, \$6,350; Prime Minister's Department, \$28,003,375; Hon. Legislation, \$378,375; Attorney-General's Department, \$2,439,550; Insurance Department, \$65,475; Education Department, \$8,188,709; Lands and Forests Department, \$3,279,125; Northern Development Department, \$750,000; Mines Department, \$484,300; Game and Fisheries Department, \$687,450; Public Works Department, \$1,140,303; Highways Department, \$532,425; Health Department, \$804,450; Labor Department, \$8,731,850; Provincial Treasurer's De-

partment, \$614,825; Provincial Auditor's Office, \$105,750; Provincial Secretary's Department, \$8,177,630; Agricultural Department, \$2,920,770; Miscellaneous, \$691,500.

While the Prime Minister's Department asks for \$28,003,375, the major portion of that amount, \$27,901,000, is for the work of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. The various items for this power work are: Niagara System, \$18,045,000; Georgian Bay System, \$1,260,000; St. Lawrence, Ottawa and Rideau, Eastern and Madawaska Systems, \$785,000; Thunder Bay System, \$595,000; Central Ontario System, \$819,000; Nipissing System, \$52,000; Northern Systems, \$4,845,000. There is another vote of \$1,500,000 for the Commission's Administration Building extension, such an extension having been proposed last year.