

BOTH GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE DIRECT AID FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Premier Assures Help in
Bearing Municipalities'
Burdens

DEPUTATION IS HEARD

Members of a deputation of Mayors of Ontario municipalities, to the number of seventy, who appeared before Premier George S. Henry at Queen's Park yesterday, were assured by him that both the Dominion and the Provincial Governments would continue to lend assistance, in the form of direct unemployment relief.

It was very likely, the Prime Minister thought, that Premier Bennett would share his own views in the matter, although he had not recently discussed the matter with him. Mr. Henry asserted that the seriousness of the situation was completely appreciated by the Government, and the intention was that there should be co-operation of a kind which would prevent the municipalities having to bear the whole burden.

Heading the deputation was Mayor John Peebles of Hamilton, who presented a sheaf of resolutions to the Premier, among them one asking that direct unemployment relief be continued after May 1. Voicing the fear that such action might defeat the ambition to find work, Premier Henry suggested the municipalities inaugurate a campaign urging citizens to start works which had been delayed owing to bad conditions.

Part of the work on the trans-Canada highway, in any event, will be continued during the warm months, it was indicated by the Prime Minister.

The thought that the costs of secondary education had got out of hand in some communities was voiced by the Premier, who heard a suggestion from the deputation that the Government should either assume a share of the cost or else make other provision by which the municipalities should pay the rising costs of this form of education. Mr. Henry pointed out that a desire for expensive buildings, too, was often evinced.

The Prime Minister saw no hope that the Municipal Councils would be given the power of revising Board of Education estimates. In addition to Mayor Peebles, the spokesmen included Mayor Bezeau of Kitchener, Mayor Swayze of Niagara Falls, and Mayor Allan of Ottawa, while Northern municipalities were represented by Earl Hutchinson, Labor M.P.P. for Kenora.

That there would be no object in such a proceeding, since the consumer would eventually have to pay through increased taxes, was the reply given by the Premier to the suggestion of Mayor Peebles that municipalities should be permitted to impose taxes on the Hydro Commission. The centralization in Niagara Falls of the power plants might result in some relief being granted there, Mr. Henry hinted.

FORM OF HYDRO BILL AND SPONSORS OF IT SCORED BY SINCLAIR

"Terribly Drawn Affair,"
Declares Liberal Leader
in Onslaught

IS SENT TO COMMITTEE

Claiming that the Ontario Hydro's bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, which is now before the Ontario Legislature, was "a terribly drawn affair, and should be sent to a special committee so that it may be put in intelligible shape," Liberal Leader William E. N. Sinclair provided a refreshing fifteen minutes in an ordinarily dull House afternoon, yesterday, when he repeatedly clashed with Hon. J. R. Cooke, Hydro Chairman, over the form of the bill, and twitted the latter regarding the "high-priced" legal advisers responsible for the same.

Mr. Cooke struck back with the argument that Hon. I. B. Lucas, former Attorney-General of Ontario, and now solicitor to Hydro, had drawn the bill, and that afterward it had been approved by the Law Clerks of the House, Allan Dymond, K.C., and H. B. Cumming. Did Mr. Sinclair with a moment's hasty consideration of the measure desire (Mr. Cooke queried) to put his opinion against that of the advisers who had given careful consideration to the bill?

"If the honorable gentleman wants an answer," retorted Mr. Sinclair, "let me say that I don't take back a single word I've said."

"And the honorable gentleman (Mr. Cooke) shouldn't forget," interjected Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, "that the people of Ontario said a good many years ago that they didn't want Mr. Lucas for their Attorney-General."

"The remark is uncalled for," said Mr. Cooke.

Last year Mr. Sinclair had explained at an earlier stage in the verbal battle a Hydro bill had been so "unintelligible" that it had to be sent to committee for redrafting. At that time he had had (he said) to submit to considerable "abuse" from the Hydro Commissioner for suggesting that the legislation was "poorly drawn." The bill now before the House was equally bad.

"I'm telling you that it has been prepared by the solicitor to the Commission, and is right," said Mr. Cooke.

"I'm telling you it is not right," said Mr. Sinclair. "And I'm sufficient of a solicitor to say you are not." With his (Mr. Sinclair's) "limited experience" he could make a better job of the bill, he added, than had been made. While he approved of the principle of the measure, he could not endorse the "terrible shape" in which it had been brought to the House.

On the suggestion of Attorney-General William H. Price, who believed that certain clauses "might be rearranged," the bill was sent to committee.

Two new pieces of Government legislation got first reading yesterday. They were Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy's "Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act," which makes the Dominion legislation of the same name now operative in Ontario, and Attorney-General Price's bill amending the Workmen's Compensation Act. This latter measure provides, among other things, that "bursitis," or "housemaid's knee," and dermatitis be classified as diseases under the act.

REBUKE GIVEN BILL ON MUNICIPAL AUDIT

Goes to Special Committee
After Rural Members'
Criticism

Fred V. Laughton, Conservative member for North Middlesex, and a sturdy fighter at all times for farming and farming municipalities, took a stinging crack in the Legislature yesterday at the "uncalled-for" attitude of many big-town members toward the "back concessions" and the people and problems there abiding and existing.

Mr. Laughton's "breeze" was created by Arthur Ellis's (South Ottawa) bill to amend the Municipal Act to the extent of providing for the compulsory appointment of regularly qualified auditors in all municipalities, in order that auditing should be more efficient and public funds should be better protected. Mr. Ellis's suggestion that in rural municipalities men were often appointed auditors who were not properly trained and lacked sufficient knowledge to protect their municipalities, provided the spark that touched off the tinder in the North Middlesex member.

"The remarks of the member for South Ottawa are unnecessary," said he. "They are not in good taste, and it is not good practice to call the people of rural Ontario ignorant." The bill in question was "no good" for the rural ridings, he contended; and, speaking for Western Ontario, he was confident that every person in the country took an intimate interest in the financial affairs of their respective municipalities; and sometimes they went almost to jealous lengths to make certain that municipal funds were not misapplied.

Both D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey) and Fred W. Elliott (Liberal, North Bruce) backed Mr. Laughton up in his argument that the proposed legislation was "quite unnecessary."

Premier Henry finally suggested (and the House concurred) that the bill be sent on to the Special Municipal Act Committee of the House, which will sit all through the next interim for its consideration. The bill was then withdrawn by Mr. Ellis.