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# Sinclair Wrathful Of Cabinet Attitude In Explaining Items

**Charges Ministers Cannot  
Explain Position With-  
out "Making Long-Suf-  
fering Exhibition" —  
Amusement Tax Law  
Draws Fire**

## **TICKETS TAX-FREE UP TO 25 CENTS**

Taunted by Provincial Treasurer Dunlop with the claim that Opposition members were quite prone to criticize the Government's taxation policy but unwilling to offer constructive suggestions on how to avoid taxes in these financially difficult times, Liberal Leader Sinclair "blew off" at white heat in the Legislature just before the dinner hour last evening, characterizing such statements as the Treasurer's as "a lot of claptrap," and charging that it ill became Government Ministers to talk "such stuff" when none of them could stand up in the House and explain his department's position without making "a long-suffering exhibition" of it.

"What do you people think we are paid our indemnities for?" clicked Mr. Sinclair when Mr. Dunlop asked him if he could make one constructive suggestion regarding taxation. "For years you people have been standing up and giving us this claptrap. There is not a man among you who can explain his department without making a long-suffering exhibition of it and getting help from somebody else. We're human over here, like all of you, and surely we deserve some credit for being elected and sent here to represent our constituencies."

### **Order-in-Council Authority.**

Mr. Sinclair's outburst came during the committee stage of the Government's bill to amend the Amusements Tax Act to the extent (among other things) of granting the Treasurer authority by Order-in-Council to regulate the increases which the Government proposes to effect on present schedules. While Mr. Dunlop served definite notice that there would be no tax placed on movie-theatre admissions up to and including 25 cents, and broadly intimated that amateur sports would also escape it, he failed to satisfy the Liberal Leader on the question of Order-in-Council powers, and was told plainly that his bill was nothing less than a "blank cheque" allowing him (if he so desired) to put a 50-cent tax on a 25-ticket, and was, generally speaking, "a no-good affair."

"So it's good-bye to baseball and good-bye to athletic parks for our boys and girls in the country this year," asserted Mr. Sinclair. "They might just as well go and hoe potatoes or sit on the veranda."

Seventy-five per cent. of the people were in open rebellion, he felt, against the increased tax. The theatre people had protested, but even they were not sure where they stood in the matter, notwithstanding that the actual bill itself was not to apply to their low-price admissions. The weather was still too cold, he submitted, to get the point of view of baseball and softball fans, but when it was obtainable, the Government, he felt, would hear something.

### **No Limit, He Claims.**

"This legislation in no way limits the amount of tax you impose," he told Mr. Dunlop, "and we might as well go home and tell our constitu-

ents that we don't know what the increases are going to be. For the honorable the Treasurer, according to his own statements, doesn't know what they are going to be himself."

"The Government," Mr. Dunlop had explained earlier, "recognizes the situation which confronts the people, but we must make both ends meet. It looked to me as though tickets of 25 cents might stand a tax of one cent, but very serious objections have been raised and the Government has been urged to leave these tickets free of tax." He added that motion-picture-theatre owners throughout the Province were suffering as greatly as other individuals, since they had been lately put to the expense of installing sound equipment, and fulfilling the firefighting regulations of the Legislature.

It was at this point that he announced that movie-theatre tickets of 25 cents and under would be exempt from the tax.

N. O. Hipel (Liberal, South Waterloo)—How is that going to affect amateur sports in the Province?

Mr. Dunlop—I am not sure about that.

He added that he was not certain that dance halls would be exempt from the tax.

Hon. H. C. Nixon—I know of one dance hall which is used far more frequently for movie pictures than for dances.

Mr. Dunlop—These halls are all licensed.

### **Pass Around the Hat.**

D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey) pointed out that in many rural districts it was the habit, at such organizations as softball clubs, to charge no definite admission fee, but for a hat to be passed round, with the understanding that ten cents was the general contribution.

Mr. Dunlop reiterated his thought that the economic strain of the present time was worse even than that of the war years. "It is easy to criticize taxes," he added, "but it is necessary to raise money to make the Budget of the Province of Ontario balance, and we mean to do that if we can."