

February 21.

HEPBURN SHELLS, PROGRESSIVE GUNS IN ONTARIO HOUSE?

Rumors Rise With Third
Party's Activity in
Opposition

LIBERALS HOLDING FIRE?

The Progressives continued their onslaught on activities of the Government yesterday with a series of questions pertaining to Hydro and the Budget Committee, which has been acting as a subsidiary of the Cabinet in retrenchment matters. Three queries were tabled to add to the barrage already levelled across the floor of the House, and Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, coupled them with his notice of motion calling for legislation to restrict the life of the present Government to four years, in accordance with the statutory term of office before the one-year addition was made.

Liberals Quiet So Far.

The activity of the Progressives in assuming the chief role of Oppositionists so far this session, has occasioned much comment in Queen's Park circles. The Liberals have been noticeably quiet in their seats in so far as critical endeavors are concerned and the only outward sign of their contribution to legislative material was Liberal House Leader Sinclair's notices of motion on his several bills.

While the Liberals' inactivity may only be the calm before the storm, for as one member put it, "We will be there when the time comes," the opinion has been voiced that, it is actually Liberal Party Leader Hepburn who has been loading the shells which the Progressives are firing.

Hence it is with interest that the House awaits today Mr. Sinclair's address in reply to the motion to adopt the Speech from the Throne. He is reticent as to what his attitude will be, and told The Globe that he desired to make his address before giving its contents advance publicity. Whether it will be one of passive resistance to the Government's policy; one of constructive criticism with a view to working with the Government to get Ontario out of the hole; or a direct attack on the financial and general policies of Mr. Henry and his Ministers, is a matter of conjecture among many on both sides of the House.

Undemocratic Principle.

After his presentation of his bill to amend the Elections Act, Hon. Mr. Nixon told The Globe that he desired to have enacted a clause to make it clear that the five-year term will not apply to the present Government. He understood, he said, that when the legislation was put through the House by Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, it was not intended to be retroactive and become applicable to the Government of the day which is still in power.

He declared that the principle of a five-year term was acceptable to him, but asserted that it was against all democratic principles for a Government to legislate itself into a longer term of office than its franchise from the people called for. Mr. Nixon stated he would refer extensively to the question in his address today.

Two more questions seeking information on legal fees paid by Hydro and other services are asked by Hon. Mr. Nixon:

"1. Has Mr. W. N. Tilley, K.C., or any member of the firm of Tilley, Johnson, Thomson & Parmenter, barristers, or the firm itself been retained by the Government or H.E.P.C. in connection with the acquiring of the Abitibi Power development. 2. If so, what has been the total amount paid in this connection? Is the account closed or not?"

W. G. Medd (Progressive, Huron South) asked: "1. What is the total sum of money paid to the firm of Clarkson, Gordon, Dilworth, Guilfoyle & Nash, accountants, or to any member or employee of the firm, during each of the last three fiscal years by (a) the Government, (b) H.E.P.C. of Ontario, (c) any other outside public service department of the Government?"

D. M. Ross (Progressive, Oxford North) asked regarding the Budget Committee appointed two months ago by the Government: "(1) Is there a special Commission known as the Budget Committee at work in the service of the Province? (2) If so, who are they? How were they appointed, and when? (3) What is the nature of their duties? (4) What remuneration does each receive?"