

FIGURES ARE ASKED ON EXCHANGE COSTS

Premier Answers First of Many Queries Made by Progressives

A question pertaining to Provincial and Hydro exchange costs was submitted to the Ministry at yesterday's session of the Ontario Legislature. D. M. Ross (Progressive, Oxford North) asked: "What has been the total cost occasioned by adverse exchange rates during each of the last three years to (a) the Government, (b) the Hydro-Electric Power Commission?"

The first answer to a score of Progressive questions reached the House when Premier Henry replied to one put by Mr. Ross some days ago regarding the Budget Committee. Mr. Henry answered officially that there was such a committee, and that the following composed it: The Premier, Attorney-General, Provincial Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Controller of Revenue, Civil Service Commissioner, and Colonel H. D. Lockhart Gordon. Mr. Henry then outlined the duties of the committee as being mainly to make an examination of expenditures, and to present recommendations for curtailment of expenditures in Governmental services. He stated that no member of the committee received remuneration for his duties, excepting Colonel Gordon, as all others were employees of departments or Ministers.

COMPENSATION BILL SECRETLY PASSED, NIXON MAINTAINS

Will Move That Clause "Slipped Through" Be Appealed

INSURANCE QUESTIONED

Charges in the address of Hon. Harry C. Nixon in the Legislature on Tuesday that the Government had "slipped through" legislation last year providing for grants from the Workmen's Compensation Board resources to assist in an employees' superannuation fund were followed up yesterday in the House by a series of questions dealing with group insurance to the board's employees.

Progressive fire will be heavily directed against the amendment passed in the session of 1932, The Globe learns, and members have been outspokenly opposed to the change, which, they claim, takes money intended for injured workmen and assists in building up a fund for employees of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

The Progressive Leader declared yesterday in an interview with The Globe that there was no indication in the printed bill last session that the amendment was contemplated, and he averred that he would seek legislation this term to have the clause as it now appears repealed.

"I feel that it was put through the House last year in a secret manner, and, as I have no information from the Government to the contrary, I will move an amendment asking that the clause be repealed," stated Mr. Nixon. "I took my bill from last year's file in my office on Tuesday and there was absolutely no mention of any such powers in the printed bill before the House."

The group insurance right was held by employees of the Compensation Board prior to last year, Mr. Nixon said. But, he claimed, the superannuation clause was legislated in addition.

It is the insurance feature that is now questioned by T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin). He asks how many employees are on the perma-

nent staff of the Workmen's Compensation Board; how many temporarily employed last year; what was the total wage bill of the board; what sum was applied from the funds of the board as a contribution to group insurance costs; how much from employees; how many contributed; the total insurance, and the cost per \$1,000 to an individual employer.

Following this series of queries, Mr. Slack then asks: "Has any action

been taken to put into effect the provisions for superannuation which this House passed last year?"