

# Attack on Hepburn Termed Cowardly By Dr. L.J. Simpson

Full Support Pledged to  
Leader in Course of  
Fighting Speech

## SWING TO LEFT ADVISED

Declaring that he stood foursquare behind the leadership of Mitchell F. Hepburn, M.P., and his co-operation with the Progressive Party, Dr. L. J. Simpson (Liberal, Simcoe Centre) yesterday in the Legislature launched one of the most vigorous onslaughts on the Henry Government to which that Administration has ever been subjected. Conservative attacks on Mr. Hepburn were "cowardly, contemptible and unsportsmanlike," he declared.

In his fighting address, he asserted that the Government had been an abject failure as far as giving leadership was concerned. Governments must have courage to give this leadership and to "swing hard to the left," he said. He termed Premier Henry's reply to Hon. H. C. Nixon's remarks on the Toronto Mortgage Company as a "foolish exhibition of temper," and regretted that the Government's relief policy was merely one of seeing that no one starved. He finally became involved in an altercation with Hon. William Finlayson over a statement the latter made.

### Calls for Election.

Calling for an election as soon as the session is completed, Dr. Simpson stated that Hon. G. Howard Ferguson had given the assurance that the legislation to lengthen the tenure of office was not to apply to the present Legislature. In referring to the Government having refused assistance to the Barrie packing plant, he pointedly asked if the "big interests" had control of the Administration.

Other participants in the Speech from the Throne debate were: Hon. G. H. Challies, Provincial Secretary, and F. J. McArthur (Conservative, Northumberland). The latter demanded that the Federal Government should order an inquiry into the abattoirs and packing plants, declaring that the farmers were not getting fair profits and that these would be found in the packing-house coffers.

### Defends Abitibi Deal.

Mr. Challies upheld the Abitibi deal, which Dr. Simpson had said was a shock to the people of Ontario; lauded the Ottawa Government for the St. Lawrence waterways plan; and said that drunkenness and drunken driving had decreased. Hon. H. C. Nixon interposed that people had not enough money to buy liquor.

"I was rather surprised to hear the member from Cobourg (Mr. McArthur) say that reciprocity was not a good thing in 1911, but because Mr. Bennett has been recently making moves in that direction he believes that it is now in order," commented Dr. Simpson.

"He also said that relief has been well carried out, and quoted Premier Henry as saying that not a man, woman or child would starve. Surely that is not the ideal of the Government?"

"And then they talk about not dealing with Russia, calling it a nation of atheists. If the Christian religion means anything, surely it means that we are not afraid to test it against any other religion in the world."

### Tory "Pep" Missing, He Says.

"We have had a rather unique situation in this House during the last couple of weeks. The Government, with the largest majority, I believe, in the history of the Province, is apparently seeking co-operation so that it might prolong its life from four to five years, in spite of the fact that it was elected for only four years."

"I have noticed a marked change in the Tory members this session. Usually they are the greatest desk-pounders in the world. But this year they seem to have lost their old pep, their old enthusiasm, and their old kick is missing. Even when Premier Henry was speaking, I noticed that about 90 per cent. of the Tory members were reading newspapers, writing letters, or talking with their neighbors."

"Premier Henry referred to the West York by-election. I would have thought that he would have left that out. For, in spite of the huge majorities it generally gives to the Conservatives, the Tory candidate won with difficulty," the speaker pointed out.

### Premier Is Rebuked.

"We had a rather foolish exhibition of temper on the part of the Prime Minister," he continued. "No one for a moment was questioning his personal integrity or honesty as the Prime Minister of this Province. But the member from Brant read certain excerpts from the annual statement of the Toronto Mortgage Company. That was the cause of the tempest in the teapot."

"I noticed in the Mail and Empire, Toronto's Tory newspaper, the next day that it said the same thing: that the Prime Minister would be well advised to consider whether he should hold the office in the mortgage company and be Prime Minister at the same time. The Prime Minister, I think, has missed his calling. He would have made a splendid old-time evangelist. He has the booming voice and the arm and leg action. Bad temper is mighty bad for any of us, and as a physician I would advise that tempers should be kept in check."

"The Prime Minister suggested that the member from Brant had his speech prepared downtown. I do not know whether it was or not," remarked Dr. Simpson.

"I'll soon tell you," interjected Mr. Nixon.

### Premier's Speech Recalled.

Dr. Simpson: "He is not the kind of man who has to have his speech prepared. But last year when Premier Henry was speaking on the Hydro, and was reading a list of figures, he got lost in the maze, and finally admitted that it was prepared by some one else. He did not even read it particularly well or intelligently."

"And I understand that a member of the Cabinet was appointed because of a speech he made, and I also understand that that speech was prepared for him. And it is further reported that his appointment was extremely unpopular with private members on the Government side."

"Last week we had a deplorable event in this House. Four Conservative members got up—and they were lawyers—and attacked Mr. Hepburn. It looked as if it were prearranged. I want to characterize that attack, in strong language, as a cowardly, contemptible, unsportsmanlike attack."

"Personally I am absolutely loyal to Mitchell Hepburn. And I am also proud of whatever association this party has with the honorable member from Brant, the Progressive Leader," said Dr. Simpson.

### Patronage Methods Assailed.

Dr. Simpson then referred to patronage. It did seem, he said, that when Conservative candidates lost in an election they really won, as they were fitted up with "soft jobs." "And I did hear that a member on the opposite side had said that the Government simply had to make him Sheriff, because he simply could not win his seat."

"I believe the Minister of Health is disappointed with the Cemetery Commission," the speaker continued, after declaring that the Government was run by Commissions. "But he should have patience with it, because it will soon have to find a nice large cemetery to bury the Tory dead."

"If it was a personal matter I would unhesitatingly say that I am not in favor of an election. They take time and money, and most of us have neither the time nor money. We are busy trying to make a living. But I recollect very well when the bill was brought into this House. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson was speaking, and I remember that the member from Ontario South (Mr. Sinclair) got up and said: 'Of course, it will not apply to this Parliament.' And I am certain that Mr. Ferguson replied: 'Oh, no.'"

### Must Swing to Left.

"But the main reason why the term should not be prolonged is that it is not constitutional to do so. It was elected for only four years. And, in spite of the cost, the people of Ontario would be well advised to spend a million dollars to get rid of this most extravagant Government. This Government has not given leadership. It has not got the courage to get rid of the hangers-on in order to cut down expenditures."

"We are certainly on the brink of a crisis, and it is a terrible thing for the Government to stand still. We have got to swing to the left, and swing hard. We have got to try new methods, and the party or Government which does that has got to have courage."

Dr. Simpson then attacked the "smiling complacency of the Cabinet," and declared that it might have made an honest effort to work out something of use to the people instead of using the dole. "I am absolutely against the dole. People do not want hand-outs, they want work, and I accuse this Government of failing to give leadership at the present time. I call emphatically upon it to resign at the end of the present session and go to the country."

### The Redistribution Question.

In reference to redistribution, Dr. Simpson said that he was not worry-

ing, although it might leave him without a seat. "We are not worrying half so much as the Toronto members. If they keep on worrying, the Government might change its mind overnight, and the city would have the same number of seats after all."

But, in spite of the Conservative members objecting, when the vote came they would vote with the Government, just as they voted with it last session on the question of allowing dogs to be used for hunting deer, he predicted. "I remember the member from Bellwoods (Mr. Bell) saying last year: 'I am in favor of dogs, but I am not going to let dogs stand between me and my party.'"

Mr. Bell rose to object that the quotation was not correct, and Dr. Simpson replied: "These are his exact words last year: 'I am not going to let dogs stand between me and my Government.'"

The speaker then declared that the Education Department was "fossilized," the Minister was a figurehead, and the department was dominated by the officials. He quoted Hon. William Finlayson as saying that, as a result of there being no separate Minister of Education, the department was "wildly extravagant." This precipitated an interchange between Mr. Finlayson and Dr. Simpson, both of whom represent Simcoe ridings.

### Sharp Tilt Develops.

"Let me state the facts," remarked the Minister.

"Then you will have to deny what was in the press, and fall back on the old excuse that the press had misinterpreted the statements," said Dr. Simpson.

"Give me a chance to state the facts," asked the Minister.