

March 17

## METROPOLITAN PLAN WILL BE EXAMINED IN INTERIM REPORT

### House Committee Hears To- ronto and Windsor Areas Views

Study of the metropolitan area project will be continued after the present session of the Legislature, and in the meantime an interim report will be submitted, according to a decision reached yesterday by the committee appointed to deal with the matter.

Long representations were heard by the committee from Toronto district and Essex Border delegates. A. J. B. Gray of York Township presented a memorandum regarding earlier findings of the committee, which saw the logical future for Toronto district municipalities as union with the city. The memorandum commented on the fact that taxes seemed to be higher where expenditures had been pared, and lower in municipalities where less care was exercised. Deputy Reeve W. A. Edwards of Mimico called for equalization of rates, and Colonel R. J. Stuart gave warm support to the metropolitan area project. For Forest Hill, Deputy Reeve Gordon Hyland spoke against any immediate action. Reeve Warren of East York complained that Toronto promised future annexation, at the same time maintaining control over the large suburban area.

"You are giving a big order when you ask for compulsory annexation," commented Hon. William Finlayson, Chairman.

Regarding the Border Cities, W. D. McGregor, President of the Windsor Chamber of Commerce, explained the partially organized system in operation there, with unified water, sewer and hospital services.

## ROYAL COMMISSION FOR MUNRO CHARGES REFUSED BY TORIES

### Highways Probe to Go Be- fore Public Accounts Committee

### COUNSEL NOT PROVIDED

### Munro to Do His Own Examining, It Is Ex- pected

Royal Commission investigation of the highway payroll padding charges was refused Liberals by the Henry Government yesterday.

Instead, the Legislature's Public Accounts Committee will hear evidence on the allegations with which young Paul Munro, K.C., shattered Conservative complacency at Thursday night's session: that \$3,459 in highway work-checks had gone the way of graft. At yesterday's sitting of the preponderantly Conservative House, Premier Henry's motion for committee inquiry carried, without division, over Liberal House Leader McQuibban's demand for a Royal Commission.

#### Suspension Announcement.

Other developments during the day included arrival in Toronto of Mitchell F. Hepburn, Ontario Liberal Leader, for conferences on the inquiry, and announcement by R. M. Smith, Deputy Minister of Highways, that James R. Gunning, allegedly deeply involved in the matter, had been suspended from his foremanship job in Elgin County. Mr. Smith issued the statement in the absence of Hon. Leopold Macaulay, the Minister, who is ill.

The Liberal claim for a Royal Commission, which received full support from Progressive Leader Harry Nixon, was based on the seriousness of the charge and the necessity for appointing counsel to press the charges. The Government reply to the latter contention, as expressed by Attorney-General Price, was that the examination of witnesses should be undertaken by Mr. Munro, lone, but highly capable lawyer, on the Opposition side. The result, say Liberals, is that, ranged against Mr. Munro will be the astute legal minds of Conservative Minister-barristers, such as Messrs. Price, Finlayson, Macaulay and McCrea.

#### Dr. McQuibban Objects.

As soon as the Legislature's sitting commenced yesterday, Premier Henry moved his motion for reference of the matter to the Public Accounts Committee. Dr. McQuibban at once objected, calling for a Royal Commission inquiry. If that were permitted, he pointed out, counsel could be appointed to press the charges. The matter was a serious one, warranting the broader investigation, he said, and the Opposition proposed to call twenty or more witnesses. As for the Public Accounts Committee, it was already overloaded with work.

Speaker Kidd pointed out to the Liberal Leader that he could not move for a Royal Commission except as an amendment to Premier Henry's motion, which already was before the House. Dr. McQuibban complied with the ruling.

Attorney-General Price considered that all the examination could be conducted by Mr. Munro, a lawyer, and instigator of the investigation. It was something new, said the Attorney-General, for a lawyer in the House to ask that a lawyer should represent him in such a matter. He promised every facility to the Opposition for a full investigation of the charges, adding that the Government "had nothing to hide," and wanted all facts brought to light. The demand for counsel he regarded as a weakness in the Opposition. As a private member he often had served his party by examining witnesses in committee.

#### Needs No Outside Assistance.

Premier Henry agreed with his Attorney-General. He saw no reason for bringing in outside assistance. His motion implemented the stand taken by the Government at Thursday night's session of the House.

"There should be a full and complete investigation," heatedly contended Hon. Harry Nixon, the Progressive Leader. "The charges are serious in nature and call for inquiry by Royal Commission."

"Would the honorable member accept the findings of a Royal Commission?" asked Frank W. Wilson (Conservative, Windsor East), and Tories hammered desks.

The amendment then was declared defeated.