

March 16

Henry Regime Is Scored For Police Moves

Verbal Melee in House
"Talks Out" Police-
Director Bill

"SOAP BOX" REFERENCE

IMPROMPTU charges indicting the heavy-handedness of Henry Government police movements were shot at former Prime Minister George S. Henry late yesterday.

Delay Results.

The fracas whirled the Ontario Legislature into another but short-lived melee. With its aid and with the aid of the first Liberal speeches to the measure, the "emergency police director" bill was again talked out—a process to which the Government on a Friday afternoon offered no protest.

Mr. Henry, with apparent inadvertence, levelled the first charge at his administration. He was reading an account of a "soapbox" meeting, with the implication that Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck gave his blessing to those hunger-marching and Soviet-minded agitators. The clipping quoted a "soapbox" reference to the armed forces of the former Administration.

"Stratford—tanks and machine guns—armed men," Liberal members shouted at the former Premier. John Rowlandson, white-haired member for Cochrane South, rose angrily in his place to charge that an army of men and guns had been sent north to aid a single lumber operator.

"I understood," the former Premier flared back as cries of "order" silenced the Chamber, "that the British Empire stood for protection of law and order and for the protection of British citizenship. I have heard of gunboats and men-of-war going in to protect one citizen."

Rowlandson Angry.

Mr. Rowlandson, still angry, declared that this was no foreign country, and Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck asked Mr. Henry if he favored gunboats in Ontario.

"Who talked of gunboats?" asked the former Premier.

"You did," the Liberals shouted triumphantly.

Hon. Arthur Roebuck challenged the inference in the reading of the newspaper accounts of last summer's hunger march, an inference that he had wished success to men later talking of Soviet organization.

"It is a contemptible thing to do," he said, "to hitch up the statements of agitators with me and attempt to blacken me. It is not fair and is not true, and the member should withdraw it."

Mr. Henry could not see what there was to withdraw. He was reading newspaper excerpts.

"Which he put in such juxtaposition," complained the Attorney-General.

"I am willing to withdraw anything I have said that imputes connection with Moscow to the Attorney-General," said Mr. Henry.

Withdrawal Demanded.

Mr. Roebuck sharply demanded withdrawal of the original inference, but the former Premier demanded that he repeat the words to be withdrawn.

"I'm no shorthand reporter," said

the Attorney-General, and the matter was dropped.

Otherwise both Mr. Henry and former Attorney-General W. H. Price were comparatively measured in their denunciation of the police bill.

"This legislation is really centralizing police authority in some one appointed by the Attorney-General or Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council," said Colonel Price. "I think this bill goes too far, is a very extreme measure, and doesn't carry out what the Attorney-General wants to do."

To the former Premier there was no evidence of a need for the change. Agreeing that there should be closer co-ordination, he termed the measure "a proposition of an entirely new character."