

March 23

TAX TALK WITH KING DENIED

Story Untrue, Hepburn and King State

A Mail and Empire and Ottawa Citizen report from Ottawa suggesting that following a conference with Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Premier Mitchell Hepburn would defer any legislation regarding the separate school tax question, was vigorously refuted in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Mr. Hepburn and in Ottawa by Mr. King.

Refutes Article.

The author of the signed article, the Premier declared, should "hang his head in shame for there is not an ounce of truth in it. It was written in an effort to stir up religious animosity."

"Never at any time," declared the Premier, "have I discussed the separate school question with Mr. King, nor have I discussed with him any matters relating to Ontario policy."

Vigorous desk-thumping and applause from the galleries followed the Premier's remark that "the Government does not intend to shirk its responsibility in respect to the separate school question."

In reply to a question from the Opposition benches, the Premier declared he had never suggested he would bring in separate school legislation this session.

No Obligation.

"What I did say," he explained, "was that the matter would be referred to Liberal caucus. The Government is under no obligation at this time to declare its policy on the matter."

"Will a House committee be appointed?" asked Colonel W. H. Price (Conservative, Parkdale).

"There has been no committee of the House appointed," the Premier replied.

"False Statements."

Ottawa, Ont., March 22 (Staff Special). — With considerable emphasis and vigor, Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King dealt with the report today, speaking in the House of Commons "on a matter affecting the privileges of this House and a question of personal privilege."

Having read to the House the article in question, the Liberal Leader declared: "At no time in conversation did Mr. Hepburn make any mention to me, or did I make any mention to him, of any matter connected with the separate school request for a share of corporation taxes."

"The statements contained in this article are wholly false, untrue, misleading and without any foundation, and that, as a matter of fact, at the present time I have no understanding or agreement with any Leader of any Provincial party in any of the Provinces of Canada, whether he be in office or out of office, as to what would be even considered, let alone done, by the Liberal Party, should that party be returned to office as a result of the next general election."

"I have never had any understanding or agreement of the kind with any Provincial Leader at any time, and so long as I am the Leader of the Liberal Party in Canada, it will not have any understanding or agreement of the kind, other than what is declared publicly from the platform as part of a Government policy. I should regard any course such as indicated in this article as being reprehensible and dishonorable, and I hope I would not be thought capable of anything of the kind."

Code Bill Sets Penalty to \$100

Roebuck Introduces Industrial Standards Act at Queen's Park

The Industrial Standards Act, a measure designed to establish uniform labor conditions throughout Ontario and to eradicate some of the industrial abuses, was introduced for first reading in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by its sponsor, Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck, Attorney-General and Minister of Labor.

The measure, when approved, will give the force of law to wage agreements between employees and employers and empowers the Minister on petition from either the employer or employees to summon those interested in any industry for the purpose of considering working conditions.

Employers and employees, under the act, may formulate schedules of wages and schedules for hours of labor and if such agreements are approved may be given the force of law by Order-in-Council. Once this agreement is reached it shall be binding on every employer and employee in such industry and such zone to which the schedule applies.

The new act provides a penalty of not less than \$25 and not more than \$100, or in default of payment, of imprisonment for not more than three months, for any employer who fails to live up to the terms of the schedule agreed upon. Employees who agree to work for less wages or more hours than contained in the schedules will be faced with penalties ranging between \$1 and \$10, or imprisonment for not more than 10 days.

LIQUOR ACT CHANGE ASKED BY HEPBURN

Amendment Believed Result of Special Local Option Condition

Notice of his intention to introduce a bill to amend the Liquor Control Act was tabled in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn.

While the Premier declined to comment on the measure it was understood to confirm establishment of beverage rooms closed in certain municipalities, where it was found the necessary local option vote was not taken.

The Liquor Control Board recently cancelled authorities in Galt and two Glengarry County municipalities when it discovered the local option by-law had not been voted upon before beverage rooms were established.

The Galt case was taken into the courts and the board's ruling upheld.

Game and Fisheries Said Not Political

Challies Promises Committee Co-operation of Opposition

Postponing dog debate and trout-season discussion, the Ontario Legislature's Fish and Game Committee organized yesterday, and elected as Chairman H. N. Carr, Northumberland's Liberal representative.

To the members the Minister of Game and Fisheries, Hon. Harry C. Nixon, explained that he hoped they would introduce their fish and game amendments to the House for reference to the committee. This would be preferable, he held, to the former custom of passing committee recommendations for possible inclusion in a Government omnibus bill.

The Deputy Minister, D. J. Taylor, seconded Mr. Nixon's statement that education in the protection of game resources would be far more effective than enforcement.

"If you have a full-time man able to organize the Province and get into the schools, and teach the value of our game and fish, you could do more for conservation," Mr. Taylor said, "than a half-dozen full-time enforcement officers."

Both Minister and Deputy Minister pointed out that Ontario's game resources are a great tourist attraction, particularly in the United States.

To the committee the former Minister, Hon. George Challies, promised Opposition co-operation in a department which he felt should never be regarded as political.

Opinion on Hydro Kept Confidential

Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn advised the Ontario Legislature yesterday that the Government did not see fit to table certain documents setting out the opinion of Lewis Duncan, K.C., concerning affairs of the Ontario Hydro Commission. These documents had been requested by Opposition members.

The documents according to the opinion of the Attorney-General the Premier said were of a confidential nature and could not be released. The Premier gave notice that he would move that an Opposition motion asking for these documents be rescinded.