

Bondholders' Lobby Intimated in House

A brief reference to a bondholders' lobby was made in the Ontario Legislature yesterday as the House renewed Hydro warfare.

"What we are trying to do is to save Ontario credit," Premier Hepburn told the Opposition. "We are going to do it in spite of coupon-clippers who are trying to bring pressure on members of both sides of the House—regardless of Hydro disaster."

The Premier later declined to amplify his intimation.

Special Officials To Take Affidavits

Roebuck Plans Bill Providing Commissioners for Purpose

Attorney-General Arthur W. Roebuck advised the Ontario Legislature yesterday that a bill would shortly be brought in giving the Government the right, by Order-in-Council, to appoint additional Commissioners for the taking of affidavits.

The information was given during discussion of the Justices of the Peace Act. William Duckworth (Conservative, Dovercourt), had asked the Attorney-General why 10,000 J.P.'s had been dismissed and only about 450 appointed under the new Administration. He claimed citizens were inconvenienced, as J.P.'s were few and far between and not easily located.

"I was a J.P.," declared Mr. Duckworth, "but I never charged for taking affidavits."

"For your peace of mind," said Mr. Roebuck, "I might say that a bill will be brought in giving the Government the right to appoint additional Commissioners by Order-in-Council. And when that bill is passed you will be a Commissioner, for that right will be extended to all members of the Legislature."

The Justices of the Peace Act Amendment, which was given its second reading, provides that informations cannot be taken before a Magistrate who might later hear and pass judgment on a case. Other clauses, the Attorney-General stated, would enable Justices of the Peace to take a more active part in the administration of justice in Ontario.

PATRONAGE DEFENDED BY HEPBURN

Sympathetic Men Wanted

WE'RE going to appoint men who are sympathetic with the policies of this Government, and, if we have to revise the statutes, we'll do it."

Premier Hepburn delivered this ultimatum as the Ontario Legislature late yesterday debated the "Loftus Reid" bill. The statement prefaced a division forced by the Conservative Opposition. By a 42-15 vote the measure was carried through second reading.

Bill Retroactive.

An inference of a doubt about the legality of the Toronto Commission's recent proceedings was raised by Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck. The bill was retroactive, he explained, to relieve this doubt and to give Hydro the power of appointment to the office.

Patronage charges at Queen's Park and Ottawa flared as the Conservatives turned their arguments against the clauses which remove the stated length of term from appointments to the Hydro Commissions of the large cities.

The Opposition talked politics now that they were in Opposition, Premier Hepburn observed. At Ottawa, Right Hon. R. B. Bennett had dismissed seven Deputy Ministers.

"That wasn't politics—that was all right."

"The Tories had always appointed Tories." After the last election, the Premier charged that in his own riding the Conservative candidate was taken care of. "Dr. Davies was appointed under the Farm Settlement Act," he said.

To Do Same Thing.

"Did they go around looking for Liberals? They did not. We're going to do the same thing."

The very purpose of the original act, he said, had been to let Hon. G. Howard Ferguson place his men in the city Commissions.

"And then he put in Loftus Reid—a Tory wardhealer of the worst type. How do you like that?"

The Opposition protested that Mr. Reid had been Chairman of the School Board.

"We're removing these men," the Premier returned, "and they're going to stay out."

When W. A. Baird put the hypothetical question of asking the Premier's reaction if Mr. Ramsden had enjoyed an appeal to the courts, Mr. Hepburn retorted: "I would say that the then Prime Minister, Mr. Ferguson, would have taken some action as we have, only he would have done it a little sooner."

Ontario Plans Tax On Raw Materials Used by Breweries

Premier Announces Changes to Liquor Act—Minors to Be Penalized

A proposal to tax raw materials used by breweries and wineries in Ontario was revealed in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn in introducing a bill to amend the Liquor Control Act. The amendment, which was given its first reading without discussion, gives the Government full power in prescribing "fees, tax and assessments payable by any brewery, distiller, or manufacturer of native wine."

It is understood that the measure transfers the incidence of taxation from the manufactured product or, in other words, from an impost on gallonage to one on malt and other raw materials.

Penalty for Minors.

The same bill will provide several other changes, among them being that a minor found consuming in a beverage-room will be held jointly responsible under the law with the holder of the beer and wine authority. At the present time only the authority-holder can be brought to task for permitting a minor to drink on his premises.

Another section of the bill states that if a year has transpired since a former conviction on a liquor charge, the person charged shall be regarded as a "first offender" whether or not previous convictions have been registered.

Granted Beverage Rooms.

The bill gives the right to Wallaceburg, Galt, Lancaster and Alexandria to establish beverage rooms. Licenses in these centres were cancelled when the Liquor Control Board found that a specific vote for beverage rooms had not been taken. The centres had previously voted in favor of liquor stores and the amendment give effect to the previous votes. The bill also gives the Commission power to rebate to municipalities a portion of beverage-room fees.

Premier Hepburn explained there had in the past been some confusion as to the proper questions to place on ballot papers regarding plebiscites on liquor. The bill sets out the following two questions to be used in future: "Are you in favor of the establishment of a Government store for the sale of liquor under the Liquor Control Act?" or "Are you in favor of the sale of beer and wine under the Liquor Control Act?"