

## FISCAL YEAR CHANGE OPPOSED

### But Bill Gets Second Reading

While advocating passage of a bill to have the fiscal year of the Province end March 31, instead of Oct. 31, as at present, which was given second reading in the House yesterday, Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn, its sponsor, frankly admitted that there were arguments on both sides. But, he expressed the belief that the merits would outweigh the disadvantages.

The change, he explained, would bring the fiscal year of the Province in conformity with that of the Dominion, a change urged on all Provinces in 1932 at a conference in Ottawa. In addition, the Premier stated, the change would enable the Province to estimate closer on its financial requirements — estimating for about twelve months, instead of approximately eighteen, as at present.

The chief objection of the Opposition was that with the change, public accounts and financial statements of the Province would be about a year old before the Legislature would have a chance to scrutinize them. The Premier stated that supplementary statements of accounts would be brought in and the Legislature would be able to peruse a nine-months statement of receipts and expenditures. Opposition members did not regard this as satisfactory, and Colonel W. H. Price (Conservative, Parkdale), suggested that the Premier lay the bill over for a year for further consideration. The Premier declared he was not prepared to do this.

## Henry COMMENDS Government

### On Abitibi Settlement

The action of the Ontario Government, through the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, in reaching a settlement at \$2,000,000 with the Dominion Construction Company for work on the Abitibi power development was highly commended in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by the Hon. George S. Henry, Leader of the Opposition.

"My remarks at this time will be rather unique," declared Mr. Henry in rising, "for I do congratulate the present Government on reaching this fair and reasonable settlement. It is an accomplishment, and the Government is to be highly commended."

Mr. Henry then explained that the past Government and Hydro Commission had negotiated numerous times in an attempt to reach a settlement with the company, whose original claim was about \$3,300,000. The efforts, however, he admitted, did not bear fruit.

"It is gratifying," he added, "that this contentious matter has been settled amicably. I regret, however, that a settlement in the same manner could not have been reached in connection with the claims of the International Railway Company against the Niagara Falls Parks Commission, but I am not blaming the present Government in this."

Replying to Mr. Henry, Premier Hepburn said: "The Government would be lacking in appreciation if it did not thank the Leader of the Opposition for his words of commendation. We thoroughly appreciate them. I might add that we have secured a complete release from the Dominion Construction Company."

## QUINTUPLETS NOW WARDS OF KING

ONTARIO'S most unusual piece of legislation—the bill providing permanent guardianship for the Dionne quintuplets until they become of age—received Royal assent yesterday.

Lieutenant-Governor Dr. Herbert A. Bruce visited the Legislative Chamber and sanctioned this and eight other measures.

His Honor was greeted at the door of the Chamber by Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn and escorted to the throne. The ceremony was brief. His Honor was questioned regarding the nine bills by the Clerk of the Legislature, Alex. C. Lewis, and assent was voiced. The other measures included: Amendments to the Parks Act, Bills of Sale Act, Division Courts Acts, Crown Witnesses Act, Adoption Act, Deserted Wives Act and the Statute of Frauds.

## TORIES OPPOSE BILL ON COMMISSIONERS

Opposition members in the Ontario Legislature yesterday voiced considerable objection to a Government measure respecting the appointment of Commissioners for the taking of affidavits. It was given second reading and sent to committee.

Under the new bill the right of appointing such Commissioners will be taken away from the Judges of the Supreme Court, and it was this particular clause which aroused greatest protest.

Sections of the bill, declared Colonel W. H. Price (Conservative, Parkdale), had merit, but he strongly disapproved of taking the right of appointment from Supreme Court Judges. He was supported in this by Leopold Macaulay (Conservative, South York).

"Why was the clause inserted?" asked Mr. Macaulay.

"In the first place," replied Attorney-General Roebuck, "because Mr. Justice Middleton requested it. The Supreme Court Judges are in no position to make such appointments generally throughout the Province.

"That is the opinion of one Justice—I would like to hear the opinion of others," remarked Mr. Macaulay. "The right of such appointments should still reside in the courts. The administration of justice should be clear of politics."

"Is the honorable member suggesting that this is going to muddy the waters of the fountain of justice?" asked Mr. Roebuck.