

April 3

Hepburn Orders Godfrey Probe Of Power 'Leak'

Request of Price in House Meets Official Response

J. M. Godfrey, K.C., Chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission, has received instructions from Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn to investigate any possible "leak" in connection with confidential information on the Government's stand on the Quebec power contracts and also to ascertain the names of the heavy sellers of these power bonds immediately prior to the Government announcement of cancellation of the contracts.

Such an investigation was demanded in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by the Hon. William H. Price (Conservative, Parkdale). The Premier at the time denied any knowledge of a "leak," but assured the Opposition member he was prepared to order the investigation.

Charging there had been a "leak" on the proposal of the Government to cancel the Quebec power contracts, and also declaring that as a result power bonds were unloaded on the market yesterday, Colonel W. H. Price (Conservative, Parkdale) in the Ontario Legislature yesterday, demanded that Premier Hepburn initiate an investigation to ascertain the source of the "leak" and who unloaded the bonds.

Premier Hepburn promptly denied that the Government was in any way responsible for the fluctuations of the market or that there had been any "leak" as far as the Government's policy was concerned. The Government, the Premier declared, was quite prepared, however, to order the Securities Commissioner to ascertain if any confidential information had reached financial sources prematurely.

Colonel Price brought the matter to the attention of the House by referring to an article in The Globe of yesterday, which stated, in part, that as a result of the formal announcement of power bond contract cancellation impetus was given "to a downward movement in senior securities of these companies in late trading."

The Premier, Colonel Price declared, did not make the announcement in the House until about 3.15 yesterday afternoon.

"How, then, could it have affected yesterday's trading if there had not been a leak?" the former Attorney-General asked. He continued: "I am told that there was active trading in these bonds, and some one must have been tipped off. Insiders apparently took advantage of advance information. I say that the long delay on the part of the Government in withholding their decision has enabled insiders to sell and trade in the bonds and unload. It is a most serious thing, and I demand that the Premier order the Securities Commissioner to find out what companies and individuals sold their bonds in Montreal, New York, and all over the country—took the opportunity of getting out. "Information on the deficit also leaked out yesterday," declared Colonel Price.

No Official Slaughter Of Sawbills This Year

THERE will be no official edict for the wholesale destruction of Sawbill ducks, as was advocated so strongly before the Fish and Game Committee of the Ontario Legislature.

But some provision may be made in this year's regulations whereby Sawbills that are shot will not "count" in the hunter's "limit."

That is, the fifteen per day individual allowance will probably be construed to mean fifteen wild ducks of any or all varieties, exclusive of Sawbills, and any of the latter "fish-eating" kind that may fall to the gun may be taken away or left behind, but shall not be included in the tally.

The objections voiced against Sawbills were that they were voracious destroyers of lake trout spawn, and minnow, as well as bass and other game fish minnows; that, they are a hardy type and great multipliers, and that, because their flesh is most inferior because their diet is almost exclusively fish, they are not fired upon by experienced hunters if the light and view will permit of their identification. Therefore unpopularity alone, amounts to a substantial measure of "protection."

Officials of the Fish and Game Department acknowledge that they were impressed by the arguments advanced before the committee against these birds; but not to the extent of declaring an all-year open season or offering a bounty for their destruc-

tion. Rather, it is probable the department biologists will make special observations as to the extent of the Sawbill's depredations or inroads upon the game fish supply. Certain it is that their main sustenance is fish, but Nature made them so.

The argument has been advanced since the committee heard the deputations, however, that, in prescribing a "limit," a duck is a duck whether it be a Canvasback, a Bluebill or a Sawbill, and, in the dusk of dawn or eventide, when flights come sailing into the decoys or sweep overhead, it is impossible to discriminate. Five may drop from the volley and, when the collection is made, three of the five may be Sawbills—not wanted—but the count is five. Repeat this three times and the limit is reached, but the hunter has only six birds that are desirable.

Serious consideration also will be given in framing this year's regulations to limiting the season's "bag" to 100, instead of 150, as at present, and also to a shorter season, by cutting off fifteen days at the tail-end, namely, closing Dec. 1, instead of Dec. 15. Most spokesmen before the committee were opposed to a later opening in any district than already prescribed.

Chorley Park RECEIVES AID To November

The \$25,000 in the Provincial estimates for the maintenance of Government House, was explained by Premier Hepburn last night as a sufficient fund to maintain the institution up to the end of October next.

"When I announced the change in the fiscal year to April 1, I was accused of taking this means as a 'short cut' to do away with Treasury support of Government House on that date. Nothing of the kind. I explained at the time that the previous Government had voted an amount to carry Government House from Oct. 31, 1934 to Oct. 31, 1935. In changing the fiscal year, closing the books on April 1, we had to make provision to continue this vote until Oct. 31 next. The \$25,000 now in the estimates is for this purpose.

"Heard This One?" Chuckles Hepburn

Premier Hepburn was describing last year's Henry Government "surplus" when he delivered his Budget speech in the Ontario Legislature yesterday.

"Looking for that surplus," he chuckled, "reminds me of the St. Thomas squire's story about a very dark gentleman who, on a very dark night, in a very dark cellar, was looking for a black cat and he couldn't find it."