

April 10

Report Urges Reinstatement Of 51 Veterans

Hunter-Myers Recommendations Are Tabled Unaltered in Legislature

PROBE IS SUGGESTED

THAT returned soldiers be given preference in case reinstatement of any dismissed employees is considered, is the burden of the Hunter-Myers Committee report, tabled in the Legislature last evening.

No Revision Made.

In consenting to table this report on the previous day, Premier Hepburn emphasized that it was in reality a private document and contained numerous inaccuracies, but no revision had been made in its original form.

In summing up, the committee recommended special consideration and reinstatement in fifty-one cases "involving extreme hardship."

The committee was appointed on Jan. 15 last by the Government, following protests of veterans' dismissals, and was composed by Lieut.-Col. F. Fraser Hunter, Liberal M.P.P. for Toronto St. Patrick, representing the Government; G. W. Mills, representing the Ontario Provincial Command of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., and Richard Myers, Chairman selected by the two other members.

In its findings it cited the dismissal of 442 war veterans since the present Administration took office. Chairman Myers, however, in a letter to the Premier, which was attacked stated that this figure included 242 cases where no protests had been received. The 200 protests were dealt with.

The largest number of dismissals was 100, from the Department of Northern Development. The Liquor Control Board was next, with 89. Other departments were: Lands and Forests, 55; Health, 33; Highways, 30; Game and Fisheries, 22; Provincial Treasurer, 22; Public Welfare, 17; Attorney-General, 21; Agriculture, 14; Labor, 12; Provincial Secretary, 13; Public Works, 11; Prime Minister's office, 2; Niagara Parks Commission, 1.

No dismissals were reported from other departments of the Government.

"The above figures," continues the report, "include cases of day labor, reported by the Department of Northern Development, Highways and Lands and Forests, but do not include men employed by the day on Government relief works, of whom it is impossible to obtain an adequate record."

Of the cases cited, 252 were permanent employees, of whom 134 had protested their dismissal, while no protests had been received from the remaining 118.

Thirteen cases were temporary employees in the inside and outside services, and 117 were temporary appointments involving casual and seasonal labor outside Toronto.

Reasons Analyzed.

Analyzing reasons for dismissal, the committee found that reductions in staff and reorganization occasioned 37; abolition of office, 40; inefficiency, misconduct and voluntary resignations, 21; patronage, 57; temporary lay-off, 14; fifth-year appointments (unclassified), 16.

Of these cases, where dismissals were protested, there were nine in which reinstatement had been made, the report stated.

The only point on which the committee quarrelled with the Government was that of partisanship. While the departments attributed fifteen dismissals to political partisanship, the committee found that in no case had the charge been proved.

"The committee therefore recommends reinstatement, or in any event the authorization of some form of judicial inquiry to investigate the charges," the report urges. "If such inquiry is held, then in any cases where the charges are not sustained this committee recommends reinstatement."

Log Of Power Bill Debate

MONDAY.

- 4.05 p.m.—Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn.
- 4.15 p.m.—Opposition Leader George S. Henry.
- 6.00 p.m.—Dinner recess.
- 8.00 p.m.—Mr. Henry.
- 10.40 p.m.—Dr. George McQuibban (Lib., Wellington North).
- 11.20 p.m.—Arthur Ellis (Cons., Ottawa South).

TUESDAY.

- 1.05 a.m.—Colonel F. Fraser Hunter (Lib., Toronto-St. Patrick).
- 1.20 a.m.—W. A. Baird (Cons., Toronto-High Park).
- 3.30 a.m.—Colonel T. A. Kidd (Cons., Kingston).
- 4.40 a.m.—G. H. Challies (Cons., Grenville-Dundas).
- 6.15 a.m.—A. R. Nesbitt (Cons., Toronto-Bracondale).
- 7.30 a.m.—T. A. Murphy (Cons., Toronto-Beaches).
- 8.20 a.m.—Breakfast recess.
- 10.00 a.m.—Leopold Macaulay (Cons., York South).
- 1.13 p.m.—W. H. Price (Cons., Toronto-Parkdale).
- 3.47 p.m.—W. Heighington (Cons., Toronto-St. David's).
- 5.09 p.m.—Heighington motion for six months' hoist (defeated).
- 5.30 p.m.—Second reading of bill carried on main motion vote, 42 to 15.

Tories Jolted By Power Bill In Committee

Didn't Expect It. But Premier Insists at 12.30 A.M.

A HALF-HOUR past midnight this morning, Premier Hepburn, when the House was in committee of the whole, moved that the Quebec power contract cancellation bill be considered.

This motion jolted the members of the Opposition as, after having spent some twenty-six hours on the subject before second reading was given, they regarded the contentious question as dealt with for the time being at least.

Premier Hepburn offered no breathers when he pressed for consideration of the bill in committee.

"No one," declared the Attorney-General, "on the Opposition side has denied that he was engaged in a filibustering operation Monday and all day and night yesterday."

To Get Bill Through.

Protests emanated from the Opposition, but the Premier shut these off by saying: "We're here to get the bill through the committee. We'll get it through if we stay here until 3 o'clock tomorrow."

"You crack the whip and every one says 'Me, too,'" declared Hon. Leopold Macaulay (Conservative, South York). He added: "You have a gang out sleeping now and they will come in and you'll go out and sleep. The steam roller is working."

"Are you proud of your filibuster of yesterday?" asked the Premier.

Opposition members continued their objections and after a considerable debate during which Chairman Ian Strachan had vacated his post to William F. Schwenger, Col. Price, leading the Opposition, appealed to the Chair to declare that the bill could not be proceeded with inasmuch as the rules provided two readings could not be given the same day.

Another Day.

Chairman Schwenger, however, held that as the House began its sitting at 8 o'clock with the usual form of prayer the Committee was really considering the bill on another sessional day. Col. Price thereupon appealed from the ruling of the Chairman and appealed to Speaker N. O. Hipel, who upheld him.

Continuing his protest Colonel Price appealed to the House from the Speaker's ruling, and the Speaker of the Legislature was upheld on a division.

Premier Hepburn was immediately upon his feet again, moving that the Speaker leave the chair in order that the House could resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain bills (the contract bill mainly). The Opposition demanded another division. Members were again called in and the Premier's motion carried.

The Speaker then left the chair and the House settled down to consider the bill clause by clause, this time with J. H. Clarke, Windsor-Sandwich, in the chair.