

And Henry Talks Of 'Leaving' House Over 'Note' Row

"The Lie" Is Mutually Passed After Tory Leader Alleges Premier's Missive Led Him to Absent Himself From Sitting When Power Bill Passed Through Committee

"PRODUCE IT," CHALLENGES PREMIER, AND HENRY AIDES COMB DEBRIS

PREMIER MITCHELL F. HEPBURN promised yesterday to "resign" if Hon. George S. Henry can prove against him a charge of deceit.

Hon. Mr. Henry undertook to "leave the Legislature for good" if "the Government and their members desire me to."

Each passed the lie to the other in one of the warmest rows of the Legislature session.

Altercation Over Note.

A note from the head of the Government, the incensed Opposition Leader charged, as the House recessed for dinner last night, had led him to absent himself from the sitting which passed the Hydro bill through committee in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

"I tell you—you are not telling the truth," Premier Hepburn returned, as Mr. Henry hotly pressed his charges.

"I give you the same back—a man who has no more principle than that—" the Opposition Leader flung back, while the Liberal benchers submerged his sentence in cries for "Order!"

Later the Premier stated definitely to *The Globe* that he would resign if Mr. Henry could prove the note to have been of a deceptive nature.

Hunt Note in Cellar.

Diligent searchers last night pawed through bag after bag of waste paper in the cellar of the Parliament Buildings in the hope of finding the note.

While the Premier was making his pronouncement, Ross Philpot, Melville Jack and Harold Brown, Opposition office aides, were digging through all the waste-paper accumulations in the basement.

He had voluntarily written Colonel W. H. Price, the Premier said, that the House would, if possible, go into committee to discuss the Hydro bill.

About midnight, the Premier said, he had informed Mr. Henry that several bills were to be taken up in committee, particularly referring to the Hydro legislation.

Colonel Price confirmed the passage of the first note between the Premier and himself.

The rules of the House, Mr. Hepburn said in the Legislature, would not permit him to express his thoughts. The English language, Mr. Henry said, would not permit him to say what he thought about it. Members called for "Order!" again.

Consideration Forecast.

The Premier flatly averred that his note to the Opposition Leader had forecast consideration of the Hydro bill in committee—"if possible." Mr. Henry was asked to produce the note, but it was not forthcoming.

"There's no need for that show of bad temper which characterizes the Leader of the Opposition," said the Premier. "He will have every opportunity to discuss the bill on third reading. He can filibuster if he wants to."

"Mr. Speaker," Mr. Henry said pas-

Ends at Midnight

At midnight the discussion-weary Ontario Legislature rose, the adjournment being moved by Premier Hepburn. The House will sit again at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

sionately, "if the Government and their members desire me to leave the House for good I'll do it. I'm concerned with the Prime Minister who deceived me last night." Hon. Paul Leduc called for privilege, but the Premier let it pass—"considering the source."

"It being now 6 o'clock," Mr. Speaker had begun in the traditional recess ritual when the fight started.

Records Are Questioned.

Mr. Henry directed attention to the House record of Mondays and Tuesdays, charging that it was entirely irregular—"a rather arbitrary proceeding on the part of the Clerk."

The Premier assumed responsibility for this as the fight proceeded.

"It being now 6 o'clock—" began Mr. Speaker again.

"If the power bill had been mentioned I'd have been in my chair at four in the morning," said former Premier Henry.

"It being now 6 o'clock—" Mr. Speaker essayed again.

"May I ask how late you are going to sit tonight?" Leopold Macaulay asked Premier Hepburn.

"I can't satisfy your curiosity," was the return. "You will have to stick around and see for yourself."

The House recessed while the bone of contention, the Hydro bill, rested on the Order paper.

It contained one important amendment passed at 3.30 of the preceding morning—bringing cancellation into force only on proclamation.

Third reading, the Premier announced, would be called for this afternoon.

Contents of Note.

Later in the evening, in an interview, the Premier said: "He says I wrote him a note indicating that the power bill wouldn't come up in committee." If Mr. Henry could produce the note and prove to the House that in it the Premier had failed to mention the power bill among other bills he had indicated would be called, he would resign his seat, Mr. Hepburn said.

Early in the dispute between the two leaders the Premier demanded if Mr. Henry had the note in question.

"No, I haven't," the Opposition Leader snapped. He found something "sinister" in that the bill had been brought back into the House after he had left, Mr. Henry said, repeating that nothing was mentioned of it in the note Premier Hepburn had sent over.

Mr. Henry reviewed again the incidents leading up to his withdrawal from the House during the time in question.

No Mention, Says Henry.

"I knew there were several bills of a legal nature and I was prepared to leave them to my colleagues who have legal training, to handle. But there was no mention in the note I received from the Prime Minister of the Hydro Bill. I would not have budged from my seat had I known. The Prime Minister deliberately deceived me," Mr. Henry declared.

"I did not," hotly retorted the Premier.

The House broke into a turmoil as Liberals shouted to the Opposition Leader to withdraw.

"If the Government and its supporters desire me to leave this House for good, I'll be glad to do so," Mr. Henry said.

A demand from Hon. Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines, to the Speaker that Mr. Henry be made to withdraw, brought a sarcastic remark from the Premier. "I consider where it came from. I'm not worrying whether he withdraws or not," he said.

At 6 o'clock the Speaker left the chair and the incident closed, for the time being.

STREET WIDENING BILL

Avenue Road Cost Spread Over City

A bill to provide for the widening of thoroughfares in Toronto to meet traffic conditions was reported yesterday by the Municipal Committee of the Legislature. The bill was drafted to overcome difficulties which the city encountered when it attempted to widen Avenue Road north from St. Clair Avenue, and lost its case in the courts, which decided in favor of protesting ratepayers.

Sponsored by J. J. Glass, member for St. Andrew's, the bill was amended on the suggestion of Hon. David Croll to limit its application to Toronto, and to provide that the city as a whole pay the costs of widening pavements beyond the width of the existing road.

Appearing for ratepayers, Grayson Smith, K.C., suggested that the city as a whole should pay for the improvement, and declared that the widening of Avenue Road would ruin one of the most attractive sections in the city.

"The congestion of traffic is greater south of St. Clair Avenue than north of St. Clair Avenue. Why concentrate all attention on the north portion of the street?" asked C. E. L. Babcock, objecting to legislation which would place the property owners at the mercy of the Municipal Board.