

April 18

LEGION Has Confidence in HEPBURN

Hunter Tells House

Eighty-five per cent. of veterans released from Government employment, whose cases have been investigated by a special committee, have been reinstated in the service, according to Colonel Fraser Hunter, (Liberal, St. Patrick), in the Ontario Legislature yesterday.

As a member of the special investigating committee, whose report was submitted recently, Colonel Hunter declared he had been authorized to voice the opinion of Captain Jules Ferry, President of the Ontario Command of the Canadian Legion, who maintains that the Legion and all other ex-service men's organizations "have every confidence that Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn's promises to the returned men will be implemented at the first possible moment."

"The Premier," Colonel Hunter declared, "set an example to the whole of Canada in his announcement concerning veterans who propose to attend the Canadian Corps Reunion at Vimy, France, next summer." The Premier in the House Monday announced that veterans of the Civil Service who intend travelling overseas will be given leave of absence with pay.

"Never has the Premier broken his promises to the returned men," continued Colonel Hunter, "and at the Legion convention in London in July, Captain Ferry will voice the statement; he has authorized me to make here today."

Colonel W. H. Price (Conservative, Parkdale) declared he had read the Hunter report and failed to see where any "bouquets" could be handed to any one in connection with the treatment of returned men who were dismissed by the Government.

SUBSIDIES CUT IN NORTH

\$25,000 Set Aside for Loans to Settlers

The policy of subsidizing persons desiring to settle in Northern Ontario is frowned upon by the Ontario Government, according to Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn in the Ontario Legislature last night.

The question came up during consideration of the estimates for the Department of Northern Development, in which a sum of \$25,000 was set aside for loans to settlers.

"We are going out of the business of colonization," said Mr. Hepburn. "It is unsound in principle and is simply throwing good money after bad. If farmers in Southern Ontario, on good land and with all facilities, are unable to get along, what chance have new farmers on barren land in the North?"

"It is not all barren land up there," objected Hon. George S. Henry.

"Much of it cannot be compared to the land in the southern part of the Province," replied the Premier.

Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Lands and Forests, explained that there are settlers now established in the North who are making a reasonable success of their venture and may need a loan. He said, however, that the sum set aside is not to finance new settlers.

Returned Men Have Preference In Civil Service

Reinstatements Being Made as Rapidly as Possible, Says Hepburn

A promise to adhere to the soldier-preference principle in Civil Service appointments was Premier Hepburn's answer this morning to an attack on the dismissal of veterans from Queen's Park.

To a review of the hardships suffered by dismissed veterans made by Colonel W. H. Price, the Premier promised that he would carefully go over the Hunter report. "I'll deal individually with all hardship cases," he said. "I'm willing to start an eligible list. I'm willing to adhere to the principle of preference for returned soldiers."

The present Administration, according to Premier Hepburn, inherited "a Civil Service cluttered up with supernumeraries." At the present time, he declared, an eligible list of returned men dismissed from the service is before the Government and reinstatements are being made as rapidly as possible.

Colonel Price charged that in all liquor stores in the Province returned men had been dismissed, and the statement was immediately challenged by the Premier and the Minister of Public Welfare.

Premier Hepburn cited the case of a St. Thomas store, where the vendor "was a rabid Tory and went out of his way to oppose me."

"There were four in the store and one had to go—I chose the Liberal because he was a married man without a family."

The Tory vendor, the Premier pointed out, was retained, because he had greater family responsibilities. Liberal members of the House roundly applauded the Premier's statement.

Tories Demand Better Lighting

Opposition Also Asks Air- Conditioning of Legisla- tive Chamber

Tired and weary Conservative members of the Provincial House at an early hour this (Thursday) morning were urging that the Queen's Park Legislative Assembly should be air-conditioned and fitted with improved lighting.

At 2.15 the Chamber was still passing estimates.

With prorogation scheduled for this afternoon, Premier Hepburn kept the House on votes of supply, while the Opposition questioned proceedings in detail, but without stirring any Legislative fire.

Chorley Park Sale Hinted by Premier

Will Dispose of It if Reasonable Offer Received

Chorley Park will be sold next fall if a reasonable offer is made to the Hepburn Government, Premier Mitchell Hepburn told the Legislature at an early hour this (Thursday) morning.

The Assembly had just passed a vote carrying Government House until Oct. 31 of this year.

"What will you do after October 31?" an Opposition member queried.

"If we get any kind of a reasonable offer," said the Premier, "we'll sell Chorley Park."

"It's about \$10,000 you're going to save," former Premier Henry stated, as he compared costs of upkeep with protection of an empty house.

The Prime Minister, he thought, "should think it over" in the next six months before taking action.

"This is a matter of principle with me," Mr. Hepburn said, again averring that there was nothing personal in his attitude. He pointed out that the cost of Government House, if capitalized, would mean \$5,000,000 to the Province today.

POLITICAL MANIPULATION CHARGED

Against Tory Forestry Administration

A slashing attack on a Conservative Lands and Forests administration was abruptly halted in a Legislature hurrying on to prorogation last night.

Opposition members entered sharp protest as the Port Arthur Liberal member, Charles W. Cox, branded Lands and Forests "one of the most iniquitous departments of the late Administration." As Hon. George Henry warned that if the attack continued a Thursday prorogation would be impossible, Premier Hepburn finally suggested that the speech be "hoisted" to the fall session. Mr. Cox agreed, adding: "I shall be back at the fall session and have plenty to say."

Speaking to reforestation in the estimates, the Port Arthur member was challenged, but permitted to proceed, as he delivered the first complimentary paragraphs of his speech.

"The policy I am going to criticize," Mr. Cox began, "was carried on during the terms of three Ministers; first, G. Howard Ferguson, that illustrious gentleman who could see the storm approaching on the horizon, handed the ship of State over to the honorable member from East York—while he himself, having lost his nerve, deserted his post as skipper for the less hazardous position of Canadian High Commissioner in London. The second is James Lyon, of the firm of the Lyon Fuel Supply Company, who preferred or was asked to become an ordinary member of the crew, and later saw fit to denounce his leader in no uncertain terms, then thought better of it and attempted to come across again as one of the old fold. Third is William Finlayson of mahogany yacht fame."