

HEPBURN BACK ON MONDAY TO LEAD PARTY

Heavy Taxation Program May Require Night Sessions

Premier Mitchell Hepburn is expected to take his seat in the Provincial Legislature on Monday and will lead the Government in pushing through the Income Tax Bill.

Night sessions may be held all next week. A heavy taxation program is contemplated by the Government. Beside the income-tax bill this program involves the amendments to the Corporation Tax Act, the Succession Duties Act, the Gasoline Tax and the Gasoline Handling Act.

The Government is going to crack down on bootleggers of gasoline in the Province. A heavy penalty for the illegal sale of gasoline is provided in an amendment to be introduced to the Act. The amendment is designed chiefly at straightening out administration.

HEENAN WAGERS TWO NEW HATS

Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Northern Development, is willing to bet a new hat that there is not a Tory left in Northern Ontario and another new hat that he made a better showing during the month of October than did the previous Government.

He made the wager yesterday with Hon. T. A. Kidd (Con., Kingston), during debate in the Legislature.

"I'll take him, and at his own figures," the Conservative replied after adjournment.

His department was under fire by the Opposition when the Minister rose to declare that during June, 1934—the election month the Henry Government had spent \$1,631,000 in Northern Ontario. In the same month of 1935 his Government had reduced this to \$844,000, he said.

"What was it in October?" called Mr. Kidd. The Federal election was held in October.

"I haven't the month of October," Mr. Heenan answered, "but if the Leader of the Opposition will permit I'll bet you a new hat it was less than October last year and I'll bet you another new hat there's not a Tory left in the North."

HEPBURN'S HEALTH RESTORES HOPES

Followers Desire Change in Decision

The hope that continued good health would alter Premier Hepburn's decision to retire was voiced twice in yesterday's Legislature. A. St. Clair Gordon and J. Harry Marceau united in a tribute to the absent Premier, and said they hoped a kind Providence would spare him to continue in his office.

"Only those of us who have labored with him in this House during the last eighteen months realize the physical, nervous and mental strain which he has undergone in administering the affairs of this Province," said Mr. Gordon.

The Kent West Liberal member united his hope for the Premier's return with an appreciation of the way in which Harry C. Nixon had carried on in the interim.

DETAILS ASKED ON POWER DEALS

Opposition Requests Report on Proceedings

Full details of Ontario's dealings with four Quebec power companies, Ottawa Valley, Gatineau, Beauharnois and MacLaren-Quebec, are asked in questions placed on the order paper of the Ontario Legislature by the Opposition.

George S. Chailles (Grenville-Dundas), former Provincial Secretary, wants a return showing all letters, memoranda, messages, minutes of meetings between the Government or any members of the Government and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission or any member of the Commission since July 12, 1934, and relating to power contracts with these companies.

In addition, Mr. Chailles wants a return showing all agreements, engineers' reports, inter-departmental reports and memoranda, surveys, minutes of Power Commission meetings since that date relating to these contracts.

Another return requested by Mr. Chailles provides for details relative to the purchase of power or plants by the Commission since July 12, 1934, other than from these companies.

Opposition Leader George S. Henry, wants the Government to state what persons or companies have been engaged by the Hydro Commission or the Government outside the regular Hydro staff since July 11, 1934, to advise on Hydro matters. He asks the date of the engagement, the remuneration in each case, and what person, persons or companies are at present engaged in an advisory capacity to the Commission in matters respecting production and distribution of power.

Contracts with the four Quebec companies were cancelled, last December when the Government proclaimed cancellation legislation passed at the 1935 session of the Legislature.

ONTARIO DEBT IS \$607,698,994

Opposition Learns Financial Figures of Province

Opposition members, who pressed the Government for finance figures all Wednesday afternoon, got some of their information in a hurry yesterday.

The funded debt of the Province as of Dec. 31, 1935, A. St. Clair Gordon revealed in yesterday's Legislature, is \$607,698,994.52. The average interest rate on this debt is 4.5447.

Along with this, the Conservatives were informed that the \$45,000,000 Hepburn Government debentures floated last year were paying interest from only 2.9 to 2.48; that due to better administrative methods, the Provincial revenue had increased; and that for the first nine months of the present fiscal year the ordinary expenditures of the Government are \$6,000,000 less than those of the corresponding period of last year, while capital expenditures for the same period are down by \$20,000,000.

A bill dealing with the question, through greater division of corporation taxes, is expected at this session of the Legislature.

BITTER BATTLE ON SCHOOL TAX LOOMS IN HOUSE

Confederation Impossible Without Separate Schools, Marceau Claims

A brief preliminary to what will probably be the most bitter fight of the present session of the Ontario Legislature was introduced yesterday by J. Henry Marceau, when he declared that Confederation "would not have been possible" without the establishment of separate schools.

Mr. Marceau, a French-Canadian Liberal representing Nipissing, seconded the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

He did not know, he said, what would be contained in the separate school legislation proposed by the Government. "Very few of us do," he said, and continued:

"The Confederation Act provided for separate schools for religious minorities of like character and maintained in like manner as the general public schools, all alike being public schools, maintained in the public interest and for public welfare.

The legislation under which the rights of separate school supporters were obtained was the result of negotiations carried on for many years prior to Confederation, and it seems safe to assume that, in the absence of a satisfactory agreement in this matter, Confederation would not have been possible.

Both Similar.

"Not only have separate schools been declared by law to be a branch of the public school system, but both classes of schools are operated in precisely the same way under the control of the Ontario Department of Education. They both teach the same curriculum, both are subject to the same inspections, the students in both have precisely the same form of examination paper, and the teachers must, under the law, possess the same qualifications.

"The Constitution of Canada provides that separate school supporters shall be exempted from payments of all rates imposed for the support of public schools," Mr. Marceau said as he concluded that part of his speech devoted to the school issue.

NORTH BAY WANTS NEW COURT HOUSE

A Provincial Building or a new Court House should be erected in North Bay, J. H. Marceau, Liberal member for Nipissing, told yesterday's Legislature.

Mr. Marceau said that present North Bay Court House accommodations were inadequate. Over and above that, he pointed out, the various Provincial departments were renting space in North Bay at a cost of approximately \$7,000 a year. These offices, said the member, were now housed all over the city.

North Bay is a Northern headquarters for several Provincial departments.