

Mr. Eggle asked if Toronto's return would be always the amount of tax the city collected in 1935, or would it be on a sliding scale. The city, with its relief grant cut, needed the money.

How many of the Opposition are actually opposed to the bill, Dr. A. D. Roberts of the Sault, questioned when he stepped into the fight for the Government at 9.47 p.m.

"I doubt if one member of the Opposition will vote for the bill," he said. The Conservative benches murmured in protest.

Dr. Roberts told them that the tax was designed to balance the Budget; that if the Bennett Government had been as liberal to the Hepburn Administration as it was to the Henry Administration, the levy might not have been so great.

Refers to Highways System.

Hon. T. A. Kidd, former Speaker of the House, rose at 4 o'clock after a 20-minute speech by J. J. Glass (Liberal, Toronto). Mr. Kidd immediately launched an attack on the Minister of Mines and Mr. Glass.

"The Minister of Mines has convinced you (Mr. Glass) that this bill is necessary to clean up the debts of the Henry Government. You are both wrong."

He charged that the Liberal member had been "instructed" what to say in his debate, and that to prolong his arguments he had picked up the Premier's Budget speech and read it again.

"You gave the same speech in this House as you might to a ward meeting," he said.

Part of the debt left by the Henry Government was due to the great highway system in the Province. Was this to be considered as a debt, he demanded, or was it not an asset, inasmuch as taxes were rolling in for its upkeep and it provided the Province with a great and necessary transportation system?

Millions of more dollars had been loaned to needy farmers, but returns were coming in steadily in the way of interest. Was that a debt on the Province or an asset? he asked.

Government Grants.

Universities, technical schools and hospitals throughout the Province were in receipt of grants from the Government. Were these an asset? he asked. "These are things my honorable friend refuses to mention when he speaks of the debts piled up."

He quoted The Globe on a statement that Ontario had a net debt of \$600,000,000, and declared the paper had said it was six times the debt of Quebec. But Quebec, he maintained, had no highway system to compare with Ontario's, nor had it a Hydro system.

"It is not this bill we need, it is a new Provincial Treasurer that we need."

"Justice is not being done to the finances of this Province."

"There should be a committee or a Commission to look into unemployment and relief."

"I think we are playing politics in relief and unemployment. We should have the facts before us before proceeding with this measure. I say to the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Nixon) that he is playing politics with this bill," Mr. Kidd said.

Mr. Nixon—What do you mean—politics? Politics, as I understand it, means the science of administration of government. That is certainly what we are doing.

Queries Liquor Profits.

Mr. Kidd—This House and every private member should know the expenditure in this Province before voting to collect another five millions. I am going to show you there have been inroads in the public treasury that should not have been made.

He charged that during the last session of the House Mr. Roebuck had been making Hydro speeches over the radio when he should have been in his seat in the Legislature listening to Mr. Henry.

"Well, I missed a treat," said Mr. Roebuck.

Mr. Kidd—Another thing the people of this Province should know your liquor profits.

Mr. Roebuck—Put it on the order paper.

Mr. Kidd—There's enough on the order paper now, and there will be more.

Mr. Kidd—This bill (income tax) should have been put through in a special session in 1934. It should have been put through in 1935, but you were afraid to levy a tax during an election.

Mr. Nixon—May I ask my honorable friend is he going to vote for this bill?

Mr. Kidd—I'll deal with that in good time.

Lawyers' Fees.

"What about Slaght? You know what he got out of it, and Mr. McCruer. Is it playing fair to pay Arthur Slaght \$6,642?"

Mr. Roebuck—I ask was it fair to pay Mr. Tilley \$50,000?

Mr. Kidd, after a moment, said: "How many people could you pay with \$6,000?"

Mr. Nixon—How many could you pay with \$50,000?

Mr. Kidd — You're paying this public money out to your friends.

Mr. Kidd sat down within a few minutes, but his place was taken by W. A. Baird (Conservative, Toronto High Park), who created a bigger storm than the former Speaker of the House.

Mr. Baird—Does this Government know that law firms have broken up partnerships in order to get Government business?

Mr. Croll—No.

Mr. Baird—Well, I do. Perhaps the Attorney-General will answer. What about his firm?

Mr. Roebuck denied that such a thing had happened with his firm. It was necessary for him to leave the firm in order to take up his office in the Government.

Mr. Baird—Would the Attorney-General say that his former partner has not received any Government business?

Mr. Roebuck declared he would answer to the fulness of his knowledge, and stated emphatically that his former partner had never received a cent of Government business.

Mr. Baird—If I have the assurance of the Attorney-General, then, of course, I withdraw.

Demands Proof.

Mr. Baird then declared that he did not suggest that Mr. Croll had withdrawn from his law firm in order that his partners might receive Government business. He added: "But the Minister knows that his partners are in receipt of Government business."

Mr. Croll—I want withdrawal or proof.

After another flurry the Speaker ruled that the member for High Park should withdraw.

Mr. Baird—I would be glad to withdraw to you, Mr. Speaker, but I am loath to withdraw to some members of this House.

There was a storm of protest, directed by Hon. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, that such a statement was unfair.

Galleries Empty

Galleries above the floor of the House at Queen's Park were less than a quarter filled during last night's session of the Legislature. Early in the evening only a few dozen spectators were seated on the long benches in the Ladies', Speaker's and Visitors' galleries, which were usually crowded last spring. No explanation for the falling public interest in politics was forthcoming.

PRICE HINTS OF AMBITIONS

Offers Wager on Leadership Chances

Colonel W. H. Price, former Attorney-General in the Henry Administration, last night gave plain intimation that he's after the leadership of the Conservative Party.

Or, if that is wrong, then he's certainly willing to bet a new hat that at least one former Cabinet Minister will be "in the running" at the forthcoming leadership convention of the Tory Party.

Hon. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, started the matter by wagering that not a single one of the old Cabinet would be in the running when the convention was called to select a Leader.

Mr. Price immediately leaped to his feet.

"Mr. Speaker," he said. "This may be a rather cheap retort, but I'll take him on."

"You're on," responded the Education Minister.

"At the next Liberal convention there will be all the delegates in the telephone book," Wilfrid Heighington (Conservative, Toronto St. David) told the House as the incident closed.

Later in his own speech to the House the former Attorney-General said he would not spend his time answering Dr. Simpson. "But I'll win the bet likely enough," he said.

Leadership was raised again late in the evening when Colonel Price took the floor on the income tax bill.

He had not questioned, he said, the Liberal leadership potentialities—who might succeed Premier Hepburn if he retired.

"No one seems to know just who will succeed Mr. Hepburn," the former Attorney-General grinned, and he mentioned every member of the present Cabinet as a possibility.

MUNICIPALITIES TO GET REBATES, BILL PROVIDES

Reimbursements Based on 1935 Income Tax Levy

Municipalities which heretofore have levied income taxes are to be reimbursed by the Province by the amount which they collected in municipal income taxes during 1935, according to a bill introduced yesterday by Hon. David A. Croll.

The Welfare Minister brought his bill in when the Provincial Legislature opened. It stipulates that the Treasurer of each municipality concerned shall pay to the Treasurer of each School Board such parts of such sums as would equal amounts received by the School Boards from income tax revenue in 1935.

It allows the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to direct payment of any part of the income tax paid to the Province in any year, including 1936, to municipalities.

This section would allow the Government, if it so decided, to pay to municipalities which have not paid income tax in the past a share in the revenue of the Provincial tax.

The bill also provides for municipalities reimbursing individuals who have paid the income tax for the business tax which they have also paid.