

Roebuck Scored As "Evil Genius"

Henry Sees Leftist Tendencies in Hepburn's Attitude on Debt Conversion

FORMER PREMIER HENRY assailed Attorney - General Arthur Roebuck as the "evil genius" of the Hepburn Administration in a bitter attack across the floor of yesterday's Legislature.

Hepburn Said Leftist.

The attack was a highlight of Mr. Henry's two-hour speech on the Address debate—the first part of yesterday's Parliamentary drama of Leaders' Day.

Only the Attorney-General and Premier Hepburn, and the activities of the Treasury and Hydro fell under the lash of the two-hour attack.

The Premier was denounced as a "left-winger" for his advocacy of debt conversion; was criticized for his handling of Provincial finance; and was urged to float long-term issues at the present low interest rates.

He should stay in his office to pay more personal attention to public business, Mr. Henry suggested, but the former Premier couched this suggestion in the terms of kindly advice.

He showed no such gentleness to the Attorney-General. Mr. Roebuck, he charged, was trying to dominate the Administration. Sometimes fruitlessly, said the former Premier, and he cited the Cabinet's rejection, last December, of the Hydro Commissioners' new Gatineau contract.

The day would come, Mr. Henry claimed, when the Liberal Administration would have to hang its head in shame in the face of a demand for all the power Hydro once purchased from Quebec.

A Legislature fight over bonds a few minutes before afternoon adjournment brought from Mr. Henry an indirectly worded charge that Wood, Gundy & Co. had made excessive profits out of the private, and thus improper, flotation of the last Government bonds.

Would Call Gundy.

This issue was handed to Harry Gundy, of Wood, Gundy & Company, Mr. Henry charged, without any competition and at their own figure.

Harry Gundy, he said, should be called before the Public Accounts Committee to say what he made on the transaction.

The bond fight started when Mr. Henry insisted that it was proper for a Government to consult financial experts before floating an issue. The Premier, he intimated, had run into the bond crisis of June, 1935, because he had only a layman's knowledge of the bond market and proper bond prices.

For that matter, Mr. Henry broke in a few minutes later, hadn't Wood, Gundy & Company made anything out of the issue that was handed them privately?

"The Province paid this money in excessive profits to the broker," he charged. "It's not the proper thing to sell bonds privately. I'm talking about the bonds you sold to Harry Gundy during the last year. You handed the bonds to Gundy without any competition at their own figure."

"Did you ever call tenders when you were Treasurer?" flared Mr. Nixon. "No, you handed them out to your friends. You paid \$40,000 for their advice; sold them the bonds; and then made the biggest spread in the history of the Province."

Debt Conversion.

Since low interest rates prevailed, said Mr. Henry, the Government should borrow money at these rates for long terms. An Administration, he said, was justified in floating a short-term issue when interest rates were high as in 1920. When the rates were low, as at present, an Administration

should guard against its obligations in future years by floating its debt in long-term issues.

The Opposition Leader's big grievance against Premier Hepburn was the Premier's advocacy of debt conversion. He praised the clause in the Speech from the Throne which said there would be no conversion, but took for his text the allegation that Premier Hepburn would evidently force conversion in the Dominion if he had the power.

"It's a happy day when we have a Prime Minister and a Minister of Finance (C. A. Dunning) having some respect of office and knowing what forced conversion means. A deaf ear was turned to my friend (Premier Hepburn) at Ottawa because the credit of the country was at stake."

"Left-winger," the Opposition Leader roared at the Premier, "so leftish they almost swung out of the conference at Ottawa."

"I swung you off your perch anyway," retorted the Premier.

Mr. Henry said that the Premier had abandoned conversion only because the rest of Canada wouldn't go with him. The Premier was still an extreme radical.

To "Stick" For Session

Premier Hepburn last night told reporters that he was sticking for the session of the Legislature—"if it kills me."

His statement was made in answer to reports that his physicians have given him new warnings to go slow. The Premier had just driven himself through a whirlwind speech in last night's Legislature. Though probably making one of the best speeches of his career, he showed some signs of strain before he was finished.

INDUSTRIAL CODE ACT UNDER AITACK

Former Premier Henry, in yesterday's Legislature, predicted that this session will see major changes in the Ontario industrial standards (codes) legislation, but members of the Cabinet refused to discuss his statement.

Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck said the Conservative Leader "was a zealot."

The former Premier said that there had been a definite slowing up of the building trade because the agreements were between small groups which were not representative of the industry.

PROSECUTORS' PAY QUERIED IN HOUSE

J. F. Hill (Conservative, Hastings East) placed a question on the Ontario Legislature Order Paper yesterday, asking the rate of pay per day received by four Crown Prosecutors recently appointed by the Government.

Public accounts for the five months ending March 31, 1935, showed the total amount received by the Prosecutors: J. C. M. German, at London; J. Singer, at Toronto; G. A. Urquhart, at Hastings; and J. H. MacDonald, at the Thunder Bay Assizes.

According to the public accounts, Mr. German received \$1,449; Mr. MacDonald, \$429; Mr. Singer, \$2,110, and Mr. Urquhart, \$1,924.

TORY'S QUESTIONS WIDE IN RANGE

Ellis Wants to Know About Autos

Arthur Ellis (Cons., Ottawa South) has tabled in the Ontario Legislature a series of questions seeking information from the Government about beverage licenses, relief camps, Hydro engineers and motor cars purchased by the Government.

Mr. Ellis asks the total number of beverage licenses issued by the Government, the total number of liquor licenses prior to the Ontario Temperance Act, and the number of standard-hotel licenses when the present Government took office.

The member wants to know how many persons were employed on relief works when the present Government took office, and how many are now employed. He seeks information on the daily payment to those employed in relief camps, and the amount paid by the former Government.