

DATA REFUSED TO OPPOSITION BY GOVERNMENT

Henry Demands Names of Purchasers of July Bond Issue

By overwhelming majorities, two divisions in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon upheld the Government of Hon. Mitchell Hepburn in its refusal to furnish records and information to the Conservative Opposition.

By a vote of 61 to 16, the House voted down the notice of motion of Hon. George S. Henry "that there be laid before the House a return showing the names of all purchasers of the bond issue at the time of the \$20,000,000 bond issue of July, 1935, showing the total purchase in each case."

A short time later, by a count of 61 to 17—Sam Lawrence, East Hamilton Laborite, voting with the Opposition—the House supported a Government notice of motion rescinding a resolution of April 17, 1935, which would have forced the tabling of a return showing "the expenditure and revenue on ordinary and capital account for the months of August, September, October, November, December and January in each of the years 1929 to 1935, inclusive." The Government motion, over the name of Provincial Secretary H. C. Nixon, furthermore instructed the Clerk to delete the entry from the journals, which purported to show that the returns had been made.

Remarkable Measure.

Featuring an afternoon of intermittent debate was the Opposition's bitter attack on the second measure, in the course of which former Premier Henry termed it "the most remarkable measure ever submitted to this House," and former Attorney-General W. H. Price caustically referred to the Government Leader as "a Hitler in embryo."

Regarding the first issue, raised by Conservative Leader Henry, Premier Hepburn opened the discussion with the announcement that it was "not a matter for public information." He

recalled that for a similar reason the former Conservative Administration had withheld requested information during its term of office.

"You might just as well ask the names of all depositors in the Ontario Savings Bank as demand to know the names of all purchasers of that 1935 bond issue," he observed.

Money From Banks!

"You got that money from the banks and the insurance companies, and not, as you have led the public to believe, from the small investor," charged Colonel Price, opening the Opposition attack. "My honorable friend, the Premier, himself telephoned the insurance companies and told them that they had to buy the bonds."

"I demand a withdrawal of that statement," thundered the Prime Minister. "I telephoned no insurance company. I threatened nobody. As a matter of fact, I had to ask some of them to cut their subscriptions in half."

"If you didn't telephone, then who did?" persisted Colonel Price. "It's time the Government quit trying to spread the impression that it's fighting the banks and insurance companies. Every time any member on this side of the House raises his voice on financial matters, we're accused of supporting the moneyed interests."

"Perhaps my honorable friend will tell us," said Hon. Leopold Macaulay (Con., York South) if more than a million dollars was subscribed by the small investors?"

One Name.

"I will disclose the name of only one voluntary subscriber," returned the Premier, with a broad smile. "My

February 27

good friend, the Evening Telegram."

As Mr. Henry pressed his motion, the Premier said: "It's not acceptable to the Government, and there's no use prolonging the argument." He moved that it be struck from the order paper, and was upheld on a vote of 61 to 16.

Proceeding at once to the attack on the Government move to block the desired ordinary and capital account data, Colonel Price complained bitterly:

"With public accounts not being revealed, with other data being withheld, and with the Government refusing to give financial information regarding Provincial affairs, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, how is the Opposition to carry on? We've had the Prime Minister on the hustings broadcasting information which he refused to give this House."

Proud of Record.

"We're going to be very happy, at a later date," replied Mr. Hepburn. "to present all the information, not only to the House, but to the public, at the proper time, and when we do, we are going to be very proud of our record. My honorable friends are being unfair. It's physically impossible to provide this information now."

Hon. George Challies, former Provincial Secretary, produced records which, he said, proved that Government statements had, in the past been issued at times within five days of closing the books."

"Travelling Cabinet."

"How do you expect me to have access to the files when you have them?" demanded Mr. Nixon, with heat. "You have a lot of files which should be in my possession."

Mr. Challies demanded a withdrawal, but Mr. Nixon merely renewed the charge. He was frequently finding that papers and files were missing from his office.

The situation was rapidly nearing the explosive stage when the entrance into the House of Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, accompanied by a Liberal demonstration of welcome, created a diversion. Mr. Challies contented himself with welcoming home "another member of the travelling Cabinet."

Mr. Henry termed the measure before the House the most remarkable in its history, or since Confederation. "He can't delete from that record, no matter what he does," the Opposition Leader asserted. "He can only rescind the resolution. It's a physical impossibility for a clerk to delete anything from the records of the House which have been circulated throughout the Province, if not the entire Dominion." The Provincial Secretary, he added, ought to know that, for he sat in the second row (as Provincial Secretary in the Drury Cabinet) before he was "shunted over here."

"This is the second time you've been 'shunted over there,'" retorted Mr. Nixon, amid laughter.

Sees Embryo Hitler.

Mr. Henry, however, was not subdued. He remarked that he had recently met a former Minister of the Reichstag who for speaking out of turn had been interned. Mr. Hepburn, he said, was "a Hitler in embryo."

"You're Leader of your party now," he said to the Premier, "but who do you expect will follow you?"

"I've got more following me than you have," shot back the Premier.

"Do you call the party's policies, or does the party?" asked Mr. Henry.

"And what happened to Bill 52?" (the corporation tax bill).

"We were just playing a little joke on the Mail and Empire," Mr. Hepburn retorted smilingly.

"Surely," pressed Mr. Henry, "the Government doesn't print bills for the sole purpose of playing jokes on newspapers?"

"It's not April Fool's Day yet," put in Mr. Macaulay.

"No. It's Ash Wednesday, and I should think the Government would be treading a narrow path today," added Mr. Henry.

Answering Mr. Henry's charge that the proposed rescinding of the 1935 resolution regarding revenue information was unprecedented, Mr. Hepburn produced the minutes of the House for 1905, wherein it was revealed that a

resolution of the House regarding the Gamey case was rescinded following the receipt of the Royal Commission report.

"That was different," argued Mr. Macaulay. "It involved a reflection on the character of an individual."

"The principle was the same," asserted the Premier.

The division was then taken, at 61 to 17.

BURWASH PROBE ASKED IN HOUSE

Charges Levelled by Former Prisoner

Serious charges of harsh treatment and lack of proper medical care of inmates at Burwash Reformatory are set forth by a former prisoner in a sworn statement which Sam Lawrence, C.C.F. member for East Hamilton, produced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday.

Demanding that the charges be investigated, Mr. Lawrence passed the statement across the floor to Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, who promised to "look into it."

The charges in the statement include the following:

That William Reid, an inmate, who was fatally injured by a falling tree on Jan. 27 of this year, had reported sick early on the morning of his death, but had been ordered out with the wood-cutting gang in the bush, where he was fatally injured; that another inmate who had the fullest knowledge of the accident, had been prevented from attending the inquest; that Nicholas Vatarovitch died at Burwash in August of 1935 of a ruptured artery after he had several times reported sick, and had been pronounced healthy; that the author of the statement himself suffered from a lung condition, which was allowed to go without proper treatment until an inspecting physician arrived; that another inmate suffering from infected tonsils was flogged and given solitary confinement; that the inmates of Camp No. 1, predominantly Catholics, were on occasion forced to attend a Protestant Church service or lose the privilege of hearing a hockey broadcast; that when a number of men lined up, on another occasion, to attend a special communion service a guard dispersed them, tore down the notice of the service, and said: "Get the — out to work"; and finally, that favoritism is rampant at Burwash, and that more men have been flogged there in the past four months than in the whole previous year.

LIBERALS RAPPED OVER DISMISSALS

Henry Says Newspapers Know First

Conservative Leader George S. Henry severely criticized the Ontario Government in yesterday's Legislature for announcing Civil Service dismissals in the press before sending the information to the discharged employee—in this case, Inspector Hamar Gardner of the Provincial Police.

"I merely confirmed the press gallery report that the man had been dismissed," said Premier Hepburn. Attorney-General Roebuck told Mr. Henry that the news was purposely withheld until a notice was sent to Gardner.

"He was dismissed for sufficient reason," said the Premier. "I think we are treating him very generously in dismissing him and not taking further action."