

# Traitors Endanger Premier Hepburn, Is Tory's Charge

## Separate School Issue Tends to Religious Discord, Says A. H. Acres

**T**RAITORS among the Hepburn crew, and a "would-be pilot, Mr. Quinn," who might lead them into dangerous waters, were envisaged yesterday by A. H. Acres, Conservative M.P.P. for Carleton, as he uttered a solemn warning to the Government in the Legislature.

### Would Shun Religious Discord.

In the first direct reference of the Opposition to the separate school issue since the session began, the Eastern member, the second speaker of the day in the debate on the Speech from the Throne, earned frequent and loud applause of his fellow-Conservatives and the keen attention of the entire House.

He referred first to "Senator O'Connor, your old friend, Mr. Prime Minister—but he's not your friend any more—sitting in the Senate with a hat three times bigger than he used to wear," and he proceeded:

"I urge you, my honorable friend, to get away from some of your new friends, who are really traitors, like O'Connor and Slaght, and from your would-be pilot, Mr. Quinn.

"At the very time when the people of Ontario should be united in one common cause for the overcoming of our economic troubles, I deeply regret that any one should inject any issue to disunite the Province. No legislation leading to racial or religious discord or disharmony should now be allowed to be proposed in this Province.

### Says Tax Bill Foolish.

"I deplore that questions of this sort should come up now. Hundreds of thousands of our people are waiting patiently for some work program to alleviate their distress, and now is the time when, above all else, we should adhere to the principle of 'special privileges to none.'"

Also under Mr. Acres fire was the Provincial income tax bill, which received third reading yesterday.

"Instead of this foolish piece of legislation," he urged, "let us have a tax of two or three more cents on gasoline. The consumers won't have to pay for it. The big companies will absorb it. We'll support you to the limit if you'll throw out Bill 51, and replace it with a new gasoline tax.

"Or let's have a meal tax. Or, again, if you need money so badly, put on a sweepstake race. Legalize it and let it go through."

"My friend knows very well that we have no jurisdiction in such a matter," interrupted Premier Hepburn. "That rests with the Dominion Government."

"I know that," retorted Mr. Acres, "but if you are such good friends with the Dominion Government, and if there is such great unity and brotherhood, let Mr. Premier use his influence to have it put through."

The Premier pointed out that Right Hon. R. B. Bennett had led in the opposition to the same proposal in the House of Commons. Mr. Acres said perhaps that opposition explained

why some Conservative M.P.'s were not returned.

### General Works Proposed.

There was room for difference of opinion in any party, he added. He pointed to Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, whom he described as "one of those popular, genial fellows who's anxious only to be in the Cabinet, no matter what party is in power." If Mr. Nixon had thought the C.C.F. might get power, he would undoubtedly have leaned that way, he believed.

The speaker further advocated a flat and consistent Hydro power rate per kilowatt hour throughout Ontario; the cleaning up of the poor sections of the cities and towns, or a general works program.

Then Mr. Acres turned his attack on the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Duncan Marshall, whom he accused of travelling to Perth, Scotland, to buy a bull for the Province while the farmers were suffering for lack of adequate consideration of their plight. He said Mr. Marshall could have bought the bull by cablegram.

"Furthermore," he added, "I'd advise you to spend more time in your department and less as an after-dinner speaker. I admire your oratory, but am disgusted with your actions. Never have the farmers of Ontario needed assistance as they need it now. But your Government has said: 'No more loans to the farmers,' and has withdrawn the bonus to breeders of pure-bred stock."

### Raps Trade Treaty.

The Carleton member attacked the United States trade treaty as failing to provide the expected advantages to cattle shippers, and said that Swifts, Canada Packers and Borden controlled the output of most of the farmers of the Province. He also had a word of condemnation of "Sir Herbert Holt, whom your party has described as a friend of Mr. Bennett, but who is not actually a friend of his at all."

"Let me also say something about the last appointment to the Milk Board," he went on. "He was a little fellow named Beck, a jewelry chap from Brampton, who knows no more about milk than I do about flying an aeroplane—and I've been up twice and hope to Heaven I'll never go up again. Do we want to find earrings floating about in our milk supply? I suppose you promised him something, and as usual when you've got a man you don't know what to do with, you've unloaded him on the farmers. You've any number of back-benchers here who could

fill that job far better than he could."

He criticized the proposed sale of Ontario House in London, Eng., as false economy, and engaged in a brief debate with Premier Hepburn, who said the office was unnecessary and a mere duplication of the services being performed by the Dominion Trade Commissioners.

He paid Mr. Hepburn the compliment of saying he had been praying for him, since "nobody in Ontario needs the prayers of the people more than you do." And he attacked Hon. Peter Heenan for, as he charged, telling the Federal Minister of Labor in a speech at a Goods Roads convention to "mind his own business" in connection with Northern road development.

And when Mr. Heenan arose to protest that "it is quite evident that my friend does not know what I was talking about," the Carleton member shot back:

"No. Nor did anybody else."

## FACTION SPLIT ON SCHOOL TAX SEEN IN CAUCUS

### "Centre" Group Believed Pushing More Than "Moderate" Changes

Rumors that a "centre" group of Ontario Liberal M.P.P.'s is pushing for "more than moderate" changes in the separate school law were current at Queen's Park yesterday after a second separate school caucus ended in stalemate.

One wing of the caucus and the largest, it was rumored, flatly expressed itself as only willing to back the "moderate" change of "may" to "must" in the law permitting a corporation to split its big payments to the school rates according to the faiths of its shareholders. There were no fireworks, it was reported, but this wing of "old Liberals" stubbornly objected to any further concessions to the Catholic schools.

French-Canadian and other strong pro-Catholic members are thought to be pressing for adoption of the Quebec panel system. When it leaked out yesterday that they had joined with another group in demanding more than "moderate" changes, it was immediately suggested that a "centre" wing of the caucus was pushing a middle-of-the-road platform.

It was reported that this might be linked up with the Government's mystery bill. That bill, it is stated, was designed to strengthen certain municipal taxes. This increase of taxes would be earmarked for the separate schools which would thus benefit, but not at the expense of the public schools.

Some such plan, it is suggested, may have been pushed by the "centre" group in yesterday's caucus.

Outcome of the whole session was the appointment of a special committee. This committee of the Legislature is to meet with Cabinet before a third caucus tries to iron out the differences in Liberal opinion.