

## REASONS GIVEN FOR DISMISSAL

### Roberts Defends Himself Against Attack

The dismissal of Merle Running from the Department of Northern Development, which was made an issue last week in the Legislature by Colonel W. H. Price, was done for good reason, the House was told yesterday by Dr. A. D. Roberts, Liberal member for Sault Ste. Marie.

Dr. Roberts produced a menu of a dinner held by the Young Conservative Club at the Sault on April 21, 1934, on which the name of Running appeared as Vice-President. Dr. Roberts denied a reported charge by Running that he (Roberts) had dismissed him.

The Sault member added that Running, a youth of 21, had been replaced with a returned soldier with five children.

Dr. Roberts took the opportunity also to defend himself against the attack made on him last week by Colonel Price regarding Dr. Roberts's former professional connection with Dr. Forbes Godfrey, then Conservative Minister of Health.

"It is only fair to myself to say," added Dr. Roberts, "that while I was a Coroner I in no way benefited from it directly or indirectly. I was merely a paid worker. Any money or benefit did not accrue to me directly, but to my superior."

## PROUD OF FRIENDS, REPLIES HEPBURN

### Sees "Mean Insinuation" in Kidd's Remarks

The topic of Prime Minister Hepburn's personal friends came up again in the Legislature last night, when he rose in indignation to answer what he regarded as innuendos uttered by T. A. Kidd, Conservative member for Kingston.

Mr. Kidd, discussing the supplementary legislation to the Provincial Income Tax Bill, objected to the word "usually" in a section exempting from the tax Senators and members of Parliament whose place of residence "usually" was in Ontario. He thought the latitude given by this word might lead to abuses.

As Mr. Kidd continued his objection to the wording of the exemption clauses affecting Senators and M.P.'s, Mr. Hepburn "blew up."

"I want to say," he complained, "that I'm getting sick and tired of these interminable and mean insinuations about my associations with Arthur Slaght, M.P., and Senator O'Connor. My friend from Kingston, in his own inimitable and insinuating way, has suggested that we are exempting them because they are friends of mine. Well, they are my friends, and I'm proud to be able to say that I have as personal friends such men as Arthur Slaght, Frank O'Connor and J. P. Bickell."

## SPEED URGED FOR BUDGET

### Money Supplies Needed Before April 1

The Ontario Legislature must push the Budget along in order to vote the money supplies for the Government before April 1, Premier Hepburn indicated as the Legislature adjourned last night.

Under the new fiscal year the Legislature's votes of money to the Government run from April 1 to April 1. The Ontario Legislature must now guard against the voted money running out while the Legislature debates next year's estimates. Premier Hepburn points out that the change in date gives the Legislature a chance to consider estimates just before they go into effect.

Opposition Leader George S. Henry demurred last night. He said something about this being one of the results of the fiscal year change while the Premier was warning the House that they must push on to the estimates.

## TAX REFUND BILL MOVES AHEAD

### Strenuous Opposition Marks Second Reading

Boosted by Premier Hepburn's statement that the legislation would be, without doubt, clarified at the next session, Bill No. 54, which provides for income-tax refunds to the municipalities, was carried through committee in the Legislature last night.

Opposition critics spent an hour in vain attempts to attach amendments to the bill to nullify the clauses which provide that refunds may be made by Order-in-Council after 1936.

"A pork barrel of \$11,000,000," Leopold Macaulay called it. Former Premier Henry said the bill's clauses were "too loose," and his former Minister of Highways went on to call it "the worst Order-in-Council legislation passed in any Province."

Just before the Liberals killed all the amendments which would have taken away the Government's discretionary powers, Premier Hepburn answered the Opposition arguments and promised reconsideration of the bill in the next session.

## PURCHASERS ACT TO BE EXTENDED

Another extension of Ontario's Mortgagees and Purchasers Relief Act was announced last night by Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck.

The Provincial act to provide certain methods of relief in cases of threatened foreclosure, was passed in 1933, and has been extended annually since that year. Notice of motion for a bill providing for another year's extension was given by Mr. Roebuck yesterday, and he intimated there might be minor amendments to the act.

## GAS TAX BRINGS OVER \$15,000,000

Over the week-end gasoline tax receipts lifted Ontario's gas-tax revenue to \$15,003,000, or \$3,000 more than the sum estimated a year ago for April 1, 1935-April 1, 1936, Provincial Secretary Harry Nixon revealed in the Legislature yesterday.

"When it comes to meeting estimates, this Government is hard to beat," the Provincial Secretary commented when he reported the close tally of gas-tax receipts and the estimate of gas-tax receipts made last spring.

Minister of Highways T. B. McQueen later told Leopold Macaulay that servicing charges on highways bonds and maintenance would almost completely use up this money.

The former Minister of Highways repeated that the Government should earmark the gas-tax revenue for highway work.

"You said you would," he insisted.

## HEPBURN HINTS AT RETIREMENT

High Liberal hopes that their young Premier had dropped his retirement plans were dampened last night in the Legislature when Premier Hepburn dropped a phrase indicating he has not decided if he will be Premier of Ontario next winter.

"... whoever is leading the Government a year from now," the Premier said, when he promised the Opposition that the bill reimbursing the municipalities for their lost income taxes will be recoded next session.

The peculiar wording of the phrase passed unnoticed in the House, but it was later noted that it was the Premier's first reference in the Legislature to his illness.

## OPTOMETRY ACT MAY BE REVISED

A Government bill to repeal many sections of the Ontario Optometry Act is to be brought down to the Legislature in a few days. Notice of motion of an amendment to the act was made in Premier Hepburn's name yesterday.

The amendment, it was learned later, will be in the nature of a "repeal" bill, but Government authorities did not reveal how drastically they were knifing the Optometry Act.