

March 27

PUBLIC DEBT CONVERSION PLAN URGED

Putting up the first brief in the Legislature for a form of public debt conversion, H. N. Carr, Liberal M. P. P. for Northumberland, last night urged that the bondholders should be given the choice of their money or of bonds bearing lower interest in an effort to make the burden of the public debt more equitable.

"I would be one of the last to advocate any policy of repudiation, Mr. Speaker," Mr. Carr said. "I believe that every honorable, straightforward bargain should be carried out, but when the circumstances seem to be such that bargains have been made by the representatives of the people without due regard for the interest of the people, then, I say, the sooner action is taken, the better.

"I believe the only clause in the bargain necessary to change would be the final date of payment, and, sir, I do not feel any great hardship would be entailed upon any investor if he were informed that 'instead of returning your money in 1950 or 1960, as the case may be, we are going to give it to you now. If you prefer to continue to invest this money in Government securities you may, but after a specified date the interest rate will be 2½ per cent., 3 per cent., or whatever rate would be decided upon as fair and equitable considering the capacity of the people to pay.

"I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there are sufficient loyal and patriotic investors who would welcome the opportunity of assisting the Dominion to again enjoy prosperous times, and, in my mind, there is no shorter road to national prosperity than by reducing the heavy load of debt overhanging the citizens of this country, which would react upon industry in such a way as to give it a new lease of life, thereby providing work for thousands of unemployed men and women."

MAXIMUM WAGE DUE FOR COUNSEL

"Chiselling" Attitude Laid to Lawyers

P. M. Dewan, Oxford M.P.P., in the Legislature last night pressed for a maximum wage of \$40 per day for lawyers who attach themselves as counsel to the Province's inquiries and Commissions.

The Oxford Liberal member lit into lawyers who serve Government inquiries and Commissions on both sides of the political fence. He called the big payments for a few years' services "an outrageous abuse." He could not understand, he said, the "grasping—shall I say chiselling?"—attitude of the legal men.

"Candidly, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Dewan, "I think there ought to be, if there is not now, some legislation on this matter. I would suggest as a maximum for counsel fees \$40 for the first day and \$35 for each day thereafter.

"It has been an outrageous abuse. It is difficult to find words adequate to condemn it. I am now dealing with this subject for a further reason, namely, that I recognize in the present Prime Minister (Premier Hepburn) a man who is earnestly determined to have this abuse corrected."

Most of the lawyer-M.P.P.'s were absent from the half-empty House, but the non-lawyers gave the Oxford member a hearty hand.

He went on to review the record of Government payments to lawyers of both parties from W. E. N. Tilley to Norman Newton. Though Mr. Newton was a personal friend, he could not help but criticize "the exorbitant fee" (recently submitted for the Toronto police probe).

One more word of criticism was directed at Judges sitting as Commissioners. The Judges, said Mr. Dewan, were not underpaid.

ADVERTISING BAN RIGIDLY PRESSED

Memorandum Sent All Dealers, Premier Says

Every brewery, distillery and winery doing business in Ontario got a memorandum in February reminding them that the ban on liquor advertising must be observed, Premier Hepburn revealed in the Legislature yesterday.

The memorandum had been signed by Liquor Control Commissioner E. G. Odette. It read:

"The advertising of liquors, beers and wines is prohibited in the Province of Ontario. This means advertising in newspapers, periodicals, programs, etc. It also means advertising novelties.

"A strict observance of the law is required."

The Premier produced the February memorandum yesterday when he answered the Conservative charge that liquor advertising was being permitted in Picton. That incident, the Premier said, arose when the liquor store vendor inadvertently used up old whiskey brand labels which had been generally used in 1927 to identify the packaged liquor.

"The Government does not desire that this practice should be permitted," the Premier said.