

BIG DEBT SIGN OF AMBITION, SAYS HENRY

Defends \$600,000,000 Public Debt as Stabilizing Influence

Ontario's \$600,000,000 public debt should not be regarded as disastrous, but as a sign of its people's ambitions, former Premier George S. Henry urged in the Legislature yesterday as he wound up the Budget debate for the Opposition.

All of the "meat" of the address was devoted to a defense of the debt incurred by Ontario in the thirty years of Conservative rule. Mr. Henry cited Hydro, the public works and the public roads as assets behind that debt, and said it was not proper to look on the obligations as a perpetual burden.

"My friend (Premier Hepburn), should forget the size of the debt—keep it down, if he can—but not be always talking about it. Take the other side of the picture: the wealth in the North and the wealth in the South. In a normal year Ontario agriculture, husbandry and the making and finishing of its products amounts to about \$500,000,000—a greater amount than produced in the best year in the three Prairie Provinces by the wheat crop."

"The debt is only the indication of the ambitions of the people to go forward and excel, and take advantage of our Province, which stands out as one of the fairest in the world."

The Conservative Leader went further, and argued that the public debt was a stabilizing influence. He quoted another member—"if a man isn't in debt, he doesn't make money." The burden of the Napoleonic war debts had staggered England, but had brought her a stabilizing force, he said.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AWAIT REPORTS

First intimation of the date of release of the Ontario Public Accounts for 1935-36 was in Premier Hepburn's speech of yesterday when he promised the Legislature members that they were going to receive the accounts "in a fair report which will be the most understandable, readable Public Accounts ever put out by the Government of Ontario."

Queried later the Premier would not say when the accounts will be published, but stated they would come after all reports were in. Before adjournment the Legislature, which had just passed the Budget motion, met in Committee of Supply and passed the one formal vote customarily passed just after the motion is carried.

The Public Accounts Committee in which the Opposition is probing the accounts of former years met Thursday and yesterday and meets again today in a Saturday session.

Hens Will Be Tattooed If Amendment Passes

TATTOO marks on chickens to help the authorities find chicken thieves are provided for in an amendment to Ontario's Branding of Live Stock Act, which was introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. Duncan Marshall.

"The object of this bill," the Agriculture Minister told the House, "is to get after the chicken thieves. The chickens," he said, "could be identified if offered for sale by a tattoo mark on one wing. And if he chops the wing off, he should be held for inquiry as to just how he had a chicken with only one wing to sell."

The tattoo amendment was a part of the Minister's legislation program which was brought down yesterday, and which extends loans under the Co-operative Marketing Act; brings

into force the Dominion Dairy Industry Act, and extends the Dog Tax and Sheep Protection Act.

Under the last amendment the indemnities which sheep owners received for ravages by dogs are extended to all live stock and poultry. There had been complaints that turkeys and even young calves were being attacked by dogs, the Minister explained. The bill also provides that the Minister shall appoint a valuer if the municipality fails to do so, and that an appeal shall lie from a municipal valuer to a valuer appointed by the Minister.

The Co-operative Loan amendment will extend the repayment of the loans to twenty years, with certain restrictions. It lodges in the Treasury the powers formerly held by the Agricultural Development Board.