

April 1

## HEPBURN WILL LEAD LIBERALS NEXT ELECTION

**"Loyalty to Friends" Will  
Not Let Him  
Retire**

### ADVISES CAUCUS

Faced with rebellious protests from his own followers, who were telling him frankly that his retirement spelt disintegration for the party, Premier Hepburn yesterday consented to stay as Liberal Leader and Premier for Ontario.

The Premier gave the first inkling of his decision to the Liberal caucus which met at the Parliament Buildings in the afternoon. In the evening he confirmed it with the statement that, as much as he wished to retire because of his health, "there was no alternative but to stay."

#### **"No Alternative."**

"As much as I want to retire," said the Premier, "and as much as I would retire, knowing my own physical condition, there was no alternative but to stay."

The decision "to stick" was made some time within the previous twenty-four hours. The Premier is understood to have been informed then and earlier that some of his own Ministers would resign their portfolios if he retired. The reason for the revolt was the political fact—admitted by Hepburn friends and Hepburn enemies—that if the Premier stepped out, the party could not carry the next election.

It was reported in some circles that doctors had warned him to retire just twenty-four hours previous to yesterday's announcement.

There would be no election in 1936, he said in answer to rumors which have circulated in Queen's Park lately that the Government planned an early election.

"I have nothing to say about 1937, or any other year, for that matter. We certainly will put through a redistribution before any vote, however. You can bank on that," the Premier said when the press questioned him.

"Will there be any Cabinet changes?" a reporter asked.

"Certainly none now," he replied.

"I don't know what made me do it," the Premier told the press. "As far as my own personal well-being is concerned, I should step out of office. My doctors insist I should. But I can't let my colleagues and my supporters down, especially at a time like this. There is such a thing as loyalty to one's friends, you know. So I intend going through with this job until after the next election if it kills me."

"Next election" talk was already brewing at Queen's Park after the Premier's announcement, but he knifed the all-winter rumors of an early election with the statement that there would be no vote this year. A redistribution bill is planned for the next session of the Legislature, and after that—no one could say last night.

The Liberal M.P.P.'s who had cheered the announcement in caucus were ready to go to the country behind "Mitch" any time. The separate school question, which has been inextricably tied up in the members' minds with the Premier's possible retirement, jogged along another step at the caucus, and the bill is expected tomorrow. Once it is out of the way, Liberal M.P.P.'s say they are ready to sweep into the home stretch toward an election.

The Premier will take up his work again this morning in an improved but only fair state of health. At present the Legislature is in its heaviest week. Considering that he was under this strain, friends report that the Premier is better than he was last November. His bronchial ailment has cleared up, but the illness in his kidneys is still causing trouble.

Undoubtedly the decision "to stick" will be followed by some of the reorganization of his work which was promised last fall when the Cabinet said they would seek to have him reconsider. A fiat from the Premier last night killed any idea of any Cabinet reorganization. What changes are made, it is anticipated, will tend to ease up the daily round of his work, which he had been undertaking at too high speed.

Seventeen of his followers—three of them Cabinet Ministers—were reported ready to resign as soon as the Premier resigned. The Ministers were Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Hon. T. B. McQuesten and Hon. David A. Croll.

Conservative claims that the Premier had deliberately pleaded sickness so that he might hold his resignation over some party followers who would not agree with him on the school tax division, were scoffed at by Mr. Hepburn. "That's rot. The idea never entered my head," he said.

## ONTARIO CADIS MOSTLY TORIES, SAYS ROEBUCK

### Protest Over Liberal Ap- pointments to Bench Is Squelched

A protest by W. A. Baird, High Park Conservative, against the appointment of Liberals to the Bench was squelched in the Legislature last night when Attorney-General Roebuck declared that 80 per cent. of Magistrates in Ontario today were Conservatives.

The issue arose over an estimate of \$173,500 for salaries and travelling expenses of Magistrates.

"All the new Magistrates are Liberals," complained Mr. Baird.

"Why not? All the old ones were Conservatives," retorted Mr. Roebuck.

Mr. Baird argued that party affiliation should not affect appointments. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson made appointments on merit, he claimed.

"Yes, but that meant they were all Conservatives," the Attorney-General remarked.

Mr. Baird, challenged to name one Liberal Magistrate appointed by the former Administration, contented himself with charging that all legal firms acting on behalf of the official guardian had been replaced by the new Government.

Mr. Roebuck then told the House that 80 per cent. of the Magistrates at present on the Ontario Bench were Conservative appointees.

## PATIENTS POSE AS INDIGENTS, CLAIMS HENRY

### "Something of a Racket" Seen in Hospitalization Procedure

A racket whereby general hospitals were being imposed upon by supposedly indigent patients who actually were well able to pay, was charged in the Legislature last night by Hon. George Henry, during discussion of Health Department grants to public hospitals.

"It's becoming something of a racket," he said, "where a doctor packs his patient off to the public ward of the hospital whether or not hospitalization is required, just so he won't be in danger of going without his fee."

"As for patients," he said, "a great many who enter public wards on the pretense they can't pay, are actually well able to foot the bill. The figures for public-ward costs are going up every year. And it's not because there is any great increase in sickness, nor yet in hospital attendance. It's just that more people are demanding that they receive free treatment, and a great many of them could afford to pay themselves."

Mr. Henry further alleged that hospitals were imposing on the Government in their demands for annual grants.

"Every year," he said, "they say they need more, and if you're gullible enough, they'll convince you. But if a little pressure were brought to bear they'd soon decide that they could get along with less. There is an example right across the street, in the biggest hospital in Ontario. Last year they reduced their costs after pressure had been brought on them in the proper way."

Premier Hepburn assured Mr. Henry that the Administration was taking every step "to rid the hospitals of undeserving cases." He pointed out that only patients certified as needing hospitalization were admitted to public wards, so that no malingerers could receive treatment.

## MONEY VOTE PUT THROUGH

After working on the job for about 30 hours out with 11 hours for sleep, the Legislature got the Government's money vote through at 12.45 this (Wednesday) morning, or a few minutes after the advent of the fiscal year. Brief tangles enlivened the last few minutes of the job.

Former Premier Henry suggested the Province's revenue inspectors "who bring in the most money get the raises in salaries." Premier Hepburn indignantly denied the suggestion.

A few minutes later the former Premier again asked Minister of Education Dr. Simpson to state what effect the new system of grants would have on the schools. After a few minutes of sparring the Minister said he must answer that he was unable to give that information.