

April 3

SEPARATE SCHOOL TAX MEASURE APPEARS TODAY

Debate Will Begin on First Reading

Before noon today, it is altogether probable, the long-awaited separate school tax battle will have begun in the Ontario Legislature.

Prime Minister Hepburn's bill to amend the Assessment Act so as to provide some adjustment—as yet not officially known—of the division of taxes between public and separate schools in Ontario was to have been introduced yesterday.

But, while crowded galleries hung on his every word, and then registered deep disappointment, Mr. Hepburn yesterday announced that he had deferred the matter until just after the 11 a.m. opening of the House today.

The reason, he said, was the absence from the House yesterday of Hon. George Henry, Leader of the Opposition, who had requested that the bill be not introduced unless he were present.

When the bill was brought down, said Mr. Hepburn, he would depart from the usual procedure and permit debate on first reading.

OPERATORS QUERY NEW MOTOR TAX

Not Protesting Levy, Says McQuesten

Representations from operators of large fleets of private commercial motor vehicles have been received regarding the proposed special tax on such vehicles, Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, told the Legislature last night when second reading was given his bill providing for the tax.

They were not protests against the principle of the levy, he explained, but requests for consideration when the amount and application of the tax was being determined.

BILL TO REMOVE WINE TAX WAITS

Growers Seek Reductions in Ottawa

Removal of the tax of 10 cents a gallon on native wines is being held in abeyance pending representations grape-growers are making to the Federal Government with a view to taxation, Premier Hepburn informed the Ontario Legislature tonight. When his bill to remove the tax came up for consideration, he announced his intention of amending the bill in committee so it would not become effective until proclaimed by Order-in-Council.

The grape growers are asking for elimination or decrease of the Federal excise tax and adjustment in the one-cent-a-pound sugar tax, the Premier said. "And we are holding everything in abeyance until then."

Mr. Hepburn said sales of native wines decreased from 2,143,875 gallons in 1930 to 1,311,722 in 1935. Sales fell off following the lowering of the Dominion excise tax on liquors. The Premier said it was the Government's intention to pass on to the consumer any benefit of a lower wine tax.

The beer parlors, imported spirituous liquors and imported wines were all conspiring to create difficulties for Canadian wines on the home market, the Legislature was told.

W. A. Baird (Cons., Toronto-High Park), blamed the taverns for the troubles besetting the wineries and grape men. They were educating the tastes of the public away from wines.

BARBERS' GROUP BILL IS KILLED

Would Compel Associ- ation Membership

Legislation designed to compel all barbers and hairdressers to belong to an association was thrown out yesterday by the Ontario Legislature Private Bills Committee for the second successive year.

Three different organizations applied for the exclusive right to control the trade, and three separate bills were before committee. A special sub-committee, of which A. Belanger (Liberal, Prescott) was Chairman, reported against adoption of any of the bills.

The three organizations, Mr. Belanger said, "remain irreducibly apart," and there seemed no prospect of getting them to unite.

OSHAWA DEFENDED IN LEGISLATURE

W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., was up in the Legislature last night to defend Oshawa. The old idol of the Liberals was protesting Wilfrid Heighington's use of an Oshawa incident to back a statement that a Magistrate's office was no place for Crown Attorneys and policemen. Mr. Sinclair explained the difficulty there.

"They might have had better police quarters," he said in his slow, easy style, "but then they might have gone into default. But we get along, and if the world had gone on that basis perhaps we wouldn't be in the debt we are now. While we're poor in this world's goods we're really not ashamed of it."

Famous \$15,000 Bull Again Causes Dispute

THE Ontario Legislature renewed the \$15,000 bull wrangle just before it adjourned at 11 o'clock last night until Premier Hepburn took Colonel W. H. Price to task for discouraging private philanthropy by making politics out of the bull which was given to O.A.C. by several wealthy citizens.

"And I hope this is the last of the bull," said the Premier.

The House rose after giving second reading or committee reading to almost every item on the order paper—in all, forty-one laws getting advanced one step. It will convene at 11 a.m. today to take up the separate school bill.