

April 7

# New Tax Division May Boost Rates

**O**NLY three Ontario cities would have to pay more than half a mill to offset the result of the increased diversion of corporation taxes to the separate schools, and many centres would pay less than one-tenth of a mill, Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, told the Legislature yesterday.

The Minister, speaking for only fifteen minutes in support of Premier Hepburn's bill, nevertheless delivered an outspoken address in favor of the principle of more financial aid for separate schools, and joined his leader in a fervent plea for non-political and non-sectarian consideration of the issue, purely on its merits.

## Believes Bill Fair.

"The Prime Minister," he said, "has asked the House to apply to discussion and consideration of this bill the Golden Rule. He could not possibly have more fairly and plainly put the issue before you. It is not up to us, as members of this Legislature, to worry about the result of our attitude to this bill in terms of nomination and votes in the next general election. There are many things far more important than nomination and election.

"Your job and mine," said Dr. Simpson, "is to satisfy our own minds and our own consciences that we are

doing the right and just thing—to satisfy ourselves that we are serving the ends of justice when we offer to the Roman Catholic people of this Province some of the rights which they have not had for so many years.

"With all my heart," said Dr. Simpson quietly and fervently, "I believe in the fairness of this bill. I do not believe that we have gone too far in our concessions to the Roman Catholic minority. And I believe that the ends of fairness and justice to all will be served by the passage of the bill."

## "Too Much Competition."

Dr. Simpson, referring to his letter to a constituent in 1933 in which he expressed himself in favor of concessions to the separate schools, which letter had been read by the previous speaker, Opposition Leader George Henry said:

"I offer no confession, because I have no confession to make. It's true that the letter was written by me; it was written as a personal message to a friend. Special editions of the Evening Telegram as a result were rushed into my riding during the election fight, and were distributed at church doors and street corners. Yet, in spite of this effort to beat me on this issue, I received in Barrie—traditionally a Conservative constituency—a majority of 874. And in my belief I obtained that majority because the people know that I have never played politics, and never will."

# Course in Religion Hinted for Schools

A course in religious knowledge may soon be added to the Ontario public school curriculum.

This possibility—it might almost be termed a likelihood—appeared on the political horizon yesterday as a result of the address of Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, during debate of the school tax issue in the Legislature.

The Minister had been touching upon the importance attached by Roman Catholics to the religious training which their children received in the separate schools. The value of such teaching, he said, could not be denied.

"There is nothing in the world," he went on, "to prevent religious

teaching in our public schools. And, in my opinion, it is time some steps were taken toward this end. We in Ontario are lagging far behind on this point. I say it is time we devoted a definite amount of time in our public school curriculum each day to the teaching of religious knowledge."

Later, speaking to The Globe, Dr. Simpson confirmed the inference that his department would give the proposal every consideration.

"We shall take up the entire question and give it thorough study," he said, "with a view to determining whether and how it could be introduced in our curriculum. I myself am most strongly in sympathy with the idea."

# BENNETT TRIED TO BUY FARMERS, CLAIMS HEPBURN

Charging that when the Dominion passed last year's cheese bonus "Mr. Bennett set about deliberately to buy the cheese producers," Premier Hepburn, as a farmer, yesterday refused to throw a "sop" to farmers by accepting a Tory motion of appreciation for the bonus.

The Premier said that what had happened to other countries' attempts to subsidize an industry was well known. "The money was voted in separate cheques to impress on the minds of the farmers that the Government was doing something for them."

Instead of killing Colonel T. A. Kidd's motion, which also asked Ottawa for further aid, the Government in an amendment by Minister of Agriculture Duncan Marshall moved that the Legislature recognized Federal Treasury bonuses were a House of Commons matter and should not be demanded by a Provincial Legislature. The amended resolution was allowed to stand for further debate.

Mr. Marshall answered that the export of commodities varied and that he was not in favor of a Legislature attempt "to loot" the Federal Treasury for a bonus for any kind of agriculture. "If we bonus cheese, why not wool, why not potatoes? The bonusing business has always proved a failure." Mr. Marshall said he did not favor any Legislature demand for a continuance of the Dominion sum. That was up to Ottawa. They were being urged to taper it off, but what would be done would not be known until their estimates came down.