

April 9

Party Lines Split On Minor Issues

Cheese Bonus and School Exemptions Divide Liberal Ranks

PARTY lines were split in two divisions in the Ontario Legislature yesterday on non-party issues—the cheese bonus and land-tax exemptions for private schools.

On the cheese bonus, three Liberal members voted with the Opposition in favor of asking the Dominion Government to continue the cent-and-a-half bonus per pound on cheese. The three were: T. G. Bowerman, Prince Edward-Lennox; F. B. Brownridge, Stormont, and R. G. Croome, Rainy River.

On the school issue, Prime Minister Hepburn and four of his Cabinet unsuccessfully opposed in committee of the whole a measure to raise from twenty to fifty acres the land which a private school or other institution of learning could operate without land tax. The vote was 32 for, and 23 against, Mr. Hepburn having the support of Ministers H. C. Nixon, Arthur Roebuck, David Croll and Dr. J. A. Faulkner in his stand, while Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson and Hon. Paul Leduc voted in favor of the increased exemption.

Emphasizing that they did not regard themselves as "bolters" from their party, Messrs. Bowerman and Brownridge later stated that they voted for the cheese bonus because encouragement of the cheese industry was of vital concern to their constituents, more than 90 per cent. of whom were patrons of cheese factories. They regarded the issue, they said, as one of sectional importance rather than party significance.

The cheese bonus motion was moved by T. A. Kidd, Kingston Tory, and received the solid support of the Opposition, as well as that of the three Liberals. When the vote finally came, it was upon the amendment of Hon. Duncan Marshall, that the Legislature do not make such a request of the Dominion Government, and the amendment carried, 54-16.

Sharp differences of opinion upon the value of the place occupied by private schools in the educational system became apparent early in the debate on the land-tax issue.

F. H. Avery, the Liberal member for St. Catharines, opened the discussion by attacking the proposal of his fellow-Liberal, Morgan Baker of North York, that only twenty acres of tax-free land be allowed each school. Application of this plan to Ridley College, St. Catharines, would be most unfair, he said, since its eighty acres were used for sports, and not for agricultural purposes in competition with the farmers—which had been the basis of Mr. Baker's complaint against private schools. Furthermore, Mr. Avery added, Ridley was not operated for gain.

Wilfrid Heighington, Toronto Tory and Ridley Old Boy, agreed that such schools as his alma mater should not be taxed on the same basis as other property.

A. St. Clair Gordon, Kent West Liberal, said private schools were not making profits, because their surpluses were being used toward the fees of the poorer pupils. Mr. Roebuck said he could see no reason why rich men, who could afford private schools for their sons, shouldn't contribute toward the same taxes as other people did.

Mr. Heighington then moved an amendment, raising exemption to fifty acres, and it passed committee by a vote of 32 to 23.

PROVINCE SPENDS \$181,100 ON CARS

Northern Development Department Report Tabled

The Ontario Department of Northern Development spent \$181,715 for motor-car rentals and mileage allowances since September, 1934, according to figures tabled in the Legislature yesterday in reply to a question from J. F. Hill (Cons., Hastings East).

Of the total, \$88,374 was for the Northern Development Department itself, \$34,171 in connection with trans-Canada highway construction, \$25,630 in the unemployment relief service and \$43,540 on colonization roads work.

In addition to these totals, the Department of Lands and Forests, also under Mr. Heenan, spent \$20,521 for car rentals during the same period of a year and seven months.

Dignity in Legislature Called for

MR. SPEAKER last night reminded the Legislature to stay on its dignity while the House pounded its way through the school debate.

Brought to his feet to arbitrate one more dispute when Robert Allen called William Duckworth "a fool if you say that," the Speaker ruled Mr. Allen must withdraw the statement.

"A few of the members," he went on, "have been making statements devoid of the dignity that should exist in this House. I want to thank the great majority who have given me assistance and obey the rules."

Mr. Duckworth was bringing the two religions into the school debate and a few minutes later John Rowlandson, Northern member, protested.

"I'm asking the member to refrain from the words 'Roman Catholic' and 'Protestant' in a school debate," he said.