

MINISTER AND HENRY IN BATTLE

Premier Agrees to Adjournment After Colleague's Outburst

HOUSE IN AN UPROAR

"I Am Thoroughly Disgusted," Is Hepburn's Only Comment

In one of the wildest scenes witnessed in the Legislature in many years, Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Lands Forests, was publicly rebuked by Premier Hepburn last night after his veteran Cabinet colleague had engaged in an unprecedented battle with Hon. George S. Henry, Opposition Leader.

"Mr. Speaker, in view of the conduct of my colleague, I am willing to accept a motion for adjournment of this debate," said Premier Hepburn, his face set.

"Thoroughly Disgusted."

Once adjournment had been effected, the Prime Minister, white-faced and shaking with emotion, strode out of the chamber, glancing neither to right nor left.

"Have you anything further to say?" the press asked.

"I am thoroughly disgusted, that's all," he said shortly.

"Do you propose any action?"

"I will say nothing more at the moment," was his parting word.

The chamber door closed behind him, leaving knots of excited Liberal legislators talking over the situation. Mr. Heenan sat silent in his seat, and then picked up his papers from the desk and left the chamber.

It was a midnight flare-up that found the galleries with only a handful of spectators, but brought members rushing into their seats to catch some of the uproar between the veteran Minister and the comparatively calm Leader of the Opposition.

Heenan Shakes Fist.

Three times Speaker Hipel ordered the Hepburn Cabinet Minister to sit down as Mr. Heenan shouted about "this man Henry." The row started over road work in Northern Ontario, and when Mr. Henry, who was speaking in the Throne Speech debate, mentioned Kenora (Mr. Heenan's constituency) the fireworks started.

"Don't you talk that way about Kenora," shouted Mr. Heenan, shaking a fist in the direction of Mr. Henry. He moved out of his seat into the aisle and gave every appearance of being about to cross the floor and take up the question at close range with his opponent. Hon. Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines, put out a restraining hand, but the enraged Minister brushed it aside. It was Mr. Henry's mention of an expenditure of \$605,000 on six miles of road between Kenora and Keewatin that started Mr. Heenan off on his tirade.

"The honorable member for Kenora is out of order," ruled the calm voice of Speaker Hipel.

"Yes, and if I was in order I'd cross the floor and see him," exclaimed Mr. Heenan. "Talk about your own dirty work," he shouted across the floor.

"I'm not the Minister without Portfolio, you know," said Mr. Henry, referring to the Heenan-Cox incident in which the former is re-

ported to have thrown the Northern Ontario member out of his office.

Mr. Heenan jumped up again.

"This man is a repudiator," shouted Mr. Heenan, glaring across at Mr. Henry.

There were cries of "Order, Order," and several Conservatives showed signs of wanting to get into the fight themselves.

"The honorable member for Kenora is out of order and must take his seat," repeated Speaker Hipel.

Premier Hepburn turned in his chair and apparently whispered something to his Cabinet colleague, but nothing stopped him.

"Mr. Speaker, if you have to call the honorable member to order once more, we may have to get the Sergeant of the House to restrain him," declared Mr. Henry.

With Premier Hepburn and Hon. Paul Leduc openly endeavoring to restrain him, Mr. Heenan shouted once at Mr. Henry, "Oh, we've got lots of money."

"And we've spent it," he added, while the Opposition applauded.

"And we got the votes, too," he further declared, while Mr. Hepburn glowered in his direction.

A moment later, he embarked on further criticism of Mr. Henry, charging that he and Howard Ferguson before him had "always hated Kenora."

"Why do you pick on Kenora?" he demanded.

"Why did you pick on Kenora to spend \$7,000,000 on it alone?" Mr. Henry countered.

Mr. Heenan stepped out into the aisle again. Speaker Hipel said: "Will the honorable member for Kenora sit down." Mr. Heenan persisted in firing questions at Mr. Henry. "Will the member for Kenora sit down," clicked Speaker Hipel again, and Hon. Mr. Leduc reached out a hand in Mr. Heenan's direction.

"Can't I ask him (Mr. Henry) a question?"

"Yes, you may," said the Speaker, "and if the honorable member sees fit to reply you must give him time to reply before you ask him another question."

"All right," said Mr. Heenan, and he fired a question about the roadwork undertaken in his riding by the Henry Administration on the eve of the 1934 election.

"I said I wasn't going to answer any more questions and I'm not," said Mr. Henry.

"He can't answer them, that's why the dumb Dora doesn't want to answer."

The long vexatious Separate Schools tax issue was precipitated into Legislature debate, in no uncertain fashion, late last night, when the Conservative Opposition moved an amendment to the Throne Address motion, "regretting that no assurance is given to the people of the Province of Ontario that Chapter 4 of the Statutes of 1935, being an Act to amend the Assessment Act, will be repealed."

The amendment, sponsored by Goldwyn Elgie, Woodbine, and Hon. W. D. Black, Frontenac-Addington, was launched after the Hepburn forces had endeavored to shut off the debate, and W. A. Baird (Cons., High Park), had rushed into the breach with an extemporaneous but biting attack on the whole policy of the Government with regard to the school tax question.

At midnight Opposition Leader George S. Henry was still speaking—unable to get an adjournment of the debate from Premier Hepburn, who said that the House would sit right through until a vote was taken.

Never at any time had the Liberal Party made any commitment with respect to the school bill, Premier Hepburn heatedly declared, when accused by Mr. Baird of having made a "bargain" to bring in this vexatious legislation if elected to power in Ontario.

"It has been a burning question, strictly on its merits, for years and years," declared Mr. Hepburn. "And I want my honorable friend to take my word for it that there never was any bargain."

The request went unheeded, and Mr. Baird, in his characteristically mild-voiced manner, suggested that the Prime Minister might be aware of campaign funds that had gone to his support in the 1934 election from "certain people."

"How about yours?" several Liberals cried.

"Do you deny," Mr. Baird asked the Prime Minister, "that you got any such funds?"

Denies Knowledge.

"I have no knowledge of it whatever," said Mr. Hepburn. "My honorable friend well knows that a leader of a party keeps away from things like that."

"What caused the break between the Treasurer of your party (Senator Frank O'Connor) and you?" demanded Mr. Baird. "I think that the rich uncle finally got tired of shelling out his cash, and quit."

"It's just your evil mind thinking that," clicked the Prime Minister. "If my honorable friend has any charges to make, let him make them and submit them to the Public Accounts Committee which is now sitting. Make them or quit talking these nasty insinuations."

"Oh, we'll make them," Mr. Baird came back, "and we'll find out for one thing why Lewis Duncan was paid \$23,000 for his work for Hydro."

Early in his remarks Mr. Baird served notice that he was about to touch off the school tax fireworks, when he charged that the Prime Minister was "so tied up this way and that" that he "couldn't move forward or backward" on the issue. And the result had been, he said, that no mention of the legislation had been carried in the Throne Address.

"Oh, that's a thing of the past," put in Attorney-General Roebuck. "That's the fond wish of the Government," giped Hon. Mr. Henry. "I know," Mr. Baird said, "that the Government doesn't like to discuss this very well because it's going to be the main issue in the next election."

The Government, by its course, he said, had stirred up racial strife among people who'd been content for years to live side by side in peace and contentment.

"There's no civil war is there?" asked Mr. Hepburn. "No," said Mr. Baird, "but you and your Government are entirely responsible for what feeling has been created, and yet you try to fasten the blame for it on the Opposition."

The Liberal Party, he declared, had been out of power for twenty-five years, and were ready to try anything. "If they could get certain favor, and campaign funds large enough," he declared, "they would get the vote. Well, they got that favor, and those funds, and they got the vote."

But why, he asked, had the Prime Minister waited two years. Did he realize that he could have been elected without "that vote"? Did he now rue the bargain he had made?

"No," thundered Mr. Hepburn. "I've said before, and I say again that there was no bargain of any kind."

Aviation-Mining Articles By Ken W. MacTaggart Win M.L.A.'s Tribute

Speaking in the debate in the Legislature yesterday, William Newman, Lib., Victoria, said that more and more attention was being focussed these days on the mining industry of Ontario. In this connection, he paid tribute to the aviation-mining articles written by Ken W. MacTaggart of The Globe and Mail, a member of the Legislative press gallery.