

March 4

Heenan Heard Again In Calmer Defense Of North Program

Hepburn Government Saved Province From Disgrace by Completing Kenora Highway, Begun by Conservatives, Declares Minister

HITS HENRY POLICY

Peter Heenan lived up to his nickname of "Peter the Peacemaker" last night.

The hot-tempered Minister of Lands and Forests again held the floor in the Legislature, but this time he kept well within the confines of Parliamentary debate and gave few anxious moments to his Leader and other Cabinet colleagues.

Many spectators in the galleries stayed longer than usual in their seats afraid that, leaving before Mr. Heenan started to speak, they would miss another exciting episode between the veteran politician and George Henry, Opposition Leader.

Construction Defended.

But they heard, instead, an aggressive address punctuated by frequent interruptions from the opposition. Mr. Heenan defended his department's expenditures for road building in Northern Ontario and declared that the Ferguson and Henry Governments had used the Kenora-Fort Frances highway as a "political football." And had never accomplished anything of real value. The Henry Government, charged Mr. Heenan, started a road-building in the north on the eve of the last general election without obtaining approval of the Federal Government with the result that Mr. Bennett repudiated the whole affair and declined to give financial assistance.

The Hepburn Government came into office in time to complete the road and save the Province from disgrace in the eyes of the people, he declared.

"The Opposition make much of the additional amounts paid over and above the contract price, as if that was anything unusual," said Mr. Heenan.

"I have some figures here which show the extra amounts paid by the Conservative Government over and above contracts for Northern Ontario road work. The additional amounts paid contractors were nearly \$2,000,000. That's an example of how they do things."

Hits Newsprint Policy.

In defending expenditures in the Kenora district, Mr. Heenan said he had done what he had promised the electors he would do if the opportunity arose. The Kenora-Kee-watin road was one of the most important and valuable arteries in the whole of the Province, he asserted.

Mr. Heenan attacked the newsprint policy of the former Conservative Administrations, and said that much of the stagnation that had been created in that industry was due to the desire of the former Premier of Ontario (Hon. G. Howard Ferguson) to become Prime Minister of Canada. He had "made friends" with Premier Taschereau of Quebec, and the result had been, said Mr. Heenan, that Ontario mills had been allowed to remain idle, while Quebec newsprint mills operated at capacity.

"We went down to Quebec when we got in power," said Mr. Heenan, "and demanded a square deal. We

haven't got a square deal yet, but we've got a lot squarer one than we had before, and we're producing 300,000 more tons annually than was produced in the last year of the Henry Government."

"Not Playing Favorites."

Mr. Heenan claimed that the speech which Hon. Leopold Macaulay had delivered in the debate last week, and which had been extremely critical of the Hepburn Administration's pulp export policy, had been "written for him."

"I write my own speeches, I'll have the Honorable Minister know," cracked Mr. Macaulay.

"Oh, don't admit that," said Mr. Heenan.

Before the end of the year, said Mr. Heenan, mills would be operating at Fort William, Thunder Bay and Espanola. "We are not playing favorites," said he. "If the Conservatives have any friends with money to invest let them come and see us and we'll talk business."

Sees No Basis.

Premier Hepburn got his answer to "the extravagant and unfounded statements" he had made about Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, when the Royal Commission inquiry into the Ontario Power Service Corporation purchase was conducted, Opposition Leader George S. Henry told the Legislature last night.

The Government, charged Mr. Henry, had retained the services of two of the most astute lawyers in the country "to dig out any dirt they could find," and yet nothing that would warrant the statements the Prime Minister had voiced recently had been revealed.

Reiterates Charge.

The Opposition Leader tangled with Mr. Hepburn on the matter of the Maclaren and Gatineau power contracts, questioning the Premier as to why he had purchased 40,000 horsepower from Maclaren when the Maclaren people, judging from the Premier's remarks, were "nefarious rascals," and should "have gone to jail."

"Why should you slam them one moment," asked Mr. Henry, "and then turn around and give them a contract to help them carry their plant?"

Mr. Henry reiterated his charge that Hydro, through its original contract with Maclaren, had "subsidized" the company to a point where it was able, in its newsprint business, to undersell Ontario mills, and had, in effect, "stolen" 20,000 tons from the Great Lakes Power and Paper Company.

Mr. Henry said it ill behoved the Premier to talk about underselling newsprint prices when his "particular friend" Archie Graustein had been behind every cut in prices—the same Graustein, he said, that was with the Gatineau Power Company, from which the present Government had continued to take great blocks of power.

"My friend?" ejaculated Mr. Hepburn. "Why, he's your friend. You and your Government bought 250,000 horsepower from him at \$15 per horsepower."

NORTH POLICY UNDER FIRE

Work Provided for Thousands, Hepburn Answers Henry

EXPORT PLAN HIT

The Administration's policy of exporting timber to the United States was providing work for thousands of men who would otherwise be on the relief rolls in Northern Ontario, replied Premier Hepburn last night in the Legislature to criticism of the Government's timber policy levelled by Opposition Leader George S. Henry.

Mr. Henry said the policy of non-export of raw materials from the forests to the United States had been in effect for thirty-five years, and proved a sound one. The present policy, he claimed, was providing continuous work for mills in the United States, while Ontario mills were idle or had little to do.

"Do you know that the production of newsprint in the last fiscal year was 300,000 tons more than in the last year of your administration?" demanded Premier Hepburn.

"I understand it increased," replied Mr. Henry.

Mr. Henry also criticized the granting of pulp concessions without tender, declaring that his Government had been assailed on this score countless times by members of the present regime.

The Premier retaliated by reading a telegram from the Municipality of Nipigon, expressing gratification over the proposed erection of a \$6,000,000 sulphide plant in that town, and praising the Government's timber policy.

Moratorium Act Goes On

Hepburn Defends Introduction of Extension by Private Member

The fact that a private member was given the task of introducing a Government bill was commented upon by Opposition Leader George Henry yesterday, who told the Legislature he was at a loss to account for this procedure. The bill was the extension of the Moratorium Act and the private member was J. J. Glass, Liberal member for St. Andrew.

Premier Hepburn denied there was any irregularity about the matter and said it was quite in order for a private member to introduce a bill of this nature which did not affect the Treasury. He chided Mr. Henry for not raising his point of order at first reading and not at second reading.

The Premier refused to tell Arthur Ellis (Cons., Ottawa South), how long the Government intended to keep the Moratorium Act in effect. He charged the Opposition member was attempting to embarrass the Government. The act was identically the same as passed by the previous Government, the Premier said.