

March 16

TWO MOTIONS ARE BEATEN BY LIBERALS

Opposition Request for Information Attempt to Embarrass, Says Hepburn

SAYS FACTS AVAILABLE

Premier "Afraid to Face the Facts," Charges Conservative Leader

Two divisions in rapid-fire order featured the afternoon sitting of the Legislature yesterday when the Government refused to table answers to two questions placed on the order paper by the Opposition. Claiming that needless expense and considerable time would have to be spent to get the necessary information and that the facts could be found in a general way in public accounts, Premier Hepburn refused to accede to the requests.

The questions asked of the Government, framed as notices of motion, concerned the appointment of the civil servants since July 11, 1934, the salaries paid them in excess of the minimum, and various other items bearing on the civil service. The first notice of motion standing in the name of T. A. Murphy (Cons., Beaches) and the second, in the name of T. A. Kidd (Cons., Kingston) duplicated each other in some respects, the Prime Minister charged.

Both Motions Defeated.

The first division resulted in defeat for the motion by a vote of 44 to 15 and on the second motion, the House voted 47 to 15 against the Opposition. Premier Hepburn was subjected to vigorous criticism by George Henry, Opposition House Leader, Leopold Macaulay (Cons., South York) and Wilfrid Heighington (Cons., St. Davids). Mr. Macaulay was particularly emphatic, charging that if the Prime Minister insisted on refusing to table the required information it was just one more indication that he was going to "spring" a general election this summer.

There were derisive cries from the Liberals and Premier Hepburn smiled.

Mr. Henry said the Prime Minister was afraid to face the facts. No unnecessary expense was involved as the Civil Service Commissioner had all the information in his records, he alleged.

"Let's get away from all this ballyhoo," urged Mr. Henry. "This information could be given without any difficulty at all."

Sees Attempt to Embarrass.

Premier Hepburn again charged that the Opposition was merely trying to embarrass the Government. He said that in the first year of his administration, the Opposition placed 256 questions on the order paper, and last year 185 questions. So far this year there were 122 questions on the order paper. The combined total was nearly twice as much as the Liberal Opposition asked in the same period of time, he said.

"I am not going to subject the taxpayers to this expense," said the Premier. "The information is contained in public accounts in a general way. The Opposition is merely trying to embarrass the Government by asking silly useless questions."

ONLY DOCTORS CAN PRESCRIBE IN MODERATION

Limitation Legislation Proposed to House by Minister of Health

NEW BILLS NUMEROUS

Bona Fide Settlers to Be Protected in the Sale of Pulpwood

Free sale of codeine and veronal in drug stores is prohibited under an amendment to the Pharmacy Act introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. Dr. J. A. Faulkner, Minister of Health.

Dr. Faulkner proposed to list codeine, veronal, amidopyrine and barbituric acid in any group as "habit-forming drugs." Under his bill, druggists will be able to sell the drugs only on doctors' prescriptions.

The same bill will authorize the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, the Ontario Veterinary Association, and the Ontario College of Pharmacy to discipline members of the professions who are guilty of selling or prescribing an "excessive, unreasonable or improper amount" of these and other drugs said to be habit-forming.

This drastic legislation is reported to be a result in part of a widespread agitation about a year ago against the use of codeine, normally prescribed as a pain-killer. It was stated then that a class of "codeine addicts" was being developed.

Protection for Settlers.

Protection of bona-fide settlers from "unjust and unfair prices" in connection with the sale of their pulpwood is provided for in legislation which Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Lands, introduced.

"In many instances," said Mr. Heenan, by way of explanation, "settlers, although owning and controlling the pulpwood they cut and sell, are so subject to the whim of buyers and middlemen that inadequate prices are received and unsatisfactory measurements obtained. Because of an inability on the part of these settlers, due to diversified circumstances, to provide ready means of collective bargaining, it is deemed advisable to provide machinery to investigate their plight in marketing their pulpwood and to establish prices that will assure them a fair return on their pulpwood holdings and the labor involved in harvesting them."

Answers Questions.

Answering questions Premier Hepburn informed T. A. Murphy (Cons., Beaches) that 14,681,568 gallons of beer with a wholesale value of \$18,814,262.35 had been sold from brewery warehouses during the calendar year 1936.

Russell Nesbitt (Cons., Brantford) was informed nineteen prosecutions had taken place under the Minimum Wage Act from March 1, 1936, to Feb. 28, 1937. Fifteen convictions were recorded and fines of \$570 levied, and \$520 collected. Some twenty-seven patients at Ontario Hospital, Hamilton, were obliged to sleep on mattresses placed on the floor by reason of overcrowded conditions, Mr. Nesbitt was informed. Four were so accommodated at New Toronto Hospital. During the year

twenty-four had to sleep on the floor in Brockville, 111 at Hamilton, and five at New Toronto.

Opposition Leader Henry was informed that the Hydro Commission had entered suit against the previous Hydro Commission in the amount of \$4,553.73, the defendants being the former Commission, in addition to F. A. Gaby and I. B. Lucas. The Hydro Commission had paid Messrs. McCarthy & McCarthy \$956.60 to proceed with the suit. The Government had taken no action to pay the costs of the defendants as ordered by the judgment.

Some eight hotels in the Province have been exempted from having to provide separate beverage rooms for women, the House was informed. The exemption was only until such time as changes could be made in the accommodation.

R. S. Robertson, K.C., received \$14,034 from the Ontario Government in connection with legal services, the House was informed.

BOUNTY BILL SUPPORTED

Proposed Legislation Affecting Iron Passes Second Reading

Without objection from the Opposition, the Government obtained second reading of the Iron Ore Bounty Bill in the Legislature yesterday. This bill, which provides for a Provincial bounty of two cents per unit of Ontario iron ore, was described by several speakers as highly important, in view of world conditions.

Hon. Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines, said that in 1930 a one-cent bonus was approved by the Government of the day, but no application was ever made by a company. It may have been too small a bonus or the depression may have been to blame, Mr. Leduc pointed out. Ontario had large iron ore deposits, but the low grade made it necessary that assistance be given.

Opposition Leader George Henry asked if it was anticipated that the bonus would raise the inferior Ontario ore to a basis of equality with the rich ore of the United States. He also asked whether there was any duty against export of iron ore from Canada to United States. In answer to the first question Mr. Leduc said the two-cent bonus would have the effect of allowing Ontario iron ore mines to meet competition. As far as duty was concerned, there was none in either Canada or United States.