

# Pleads for Justice, Early Opportunity To Clear His Name

## Charges Made Against Sault Member by Premier Will Not Be Examined Until Sir James Dunn Re- turns From England

### NEW CHARGES HINTED

Charges made by Premier Hepburn against Dr. A. D. Roberts, Liberal member for Sault Ste. Marie, will not be aired before the committee of privileges and elections until such time as Sir James Dunn returns from England and is able to appear to give evidence.

#### Would Subpoena Premier.

This was the decision reached by the committee yesterday over the strenuously voiced protests of Dr. Roberts and the Conservative members of the committee. Claiming that he stood accused as a blackmailer and that he should be given the earliest opportunity of clearing his name, Dr. Roberts sought to have the committee proceed with the investigation. He introduced a resolution asking that Premier Hepburn, Dr. B. T. McGhie, Deputy Minister of Health, and a number of Sault Ste. Marie residents be subpoenaed to appear immediately before the committee.

Hon. David Croll, who acted for the Government, refused to entertain this resolution, declaring that no good purpose would be served by proceeding in piece-meal fashion with the evidence. Sir James Dunn was in England, and until he returned nothing could be done, he said.

The Minister of Welfare introduced a resolution which provided for a thorough investigation and the production of all letters, telegrams, and other data pertaining to the cases.

#### Seeks Vindication.

Arthur Ellis (Cons., Ottawa South), W. A. Baird (Cons., High Park), Russell Nesbitt (Cons., Bracadale), and Wilfred Heighington (Cons., St. Davids) all joined with Dr. Roberts in protesting the delay. The Government was accused of having ulterior motives, and Dr. Roberts voiced the threat that if other charges were brought against him, as indicated in the enlargement of the committee's scope, he would bring up charges to match them.

The Conservative group attempted to have the committee meet again on Tuesday to hear evidence from the witnesses asked for by Dr. Roberts, but this effort was defeated on a called vote. It was decided to stand adjourned at the call of the Chairman. Mr. Croll was unable to say when Sir James Dunn would be available, but hoped it would be within a month.

"I am the injured party so far, and I want to be vindicated," said Dr. Roberts. "I am not asking for any favors. I would be foolish to expect any. But I want ordinary, common garden justice. I am accused of being a blackmailer and the story has gone all over the Dominion of Canada. Now this committee is asking me to wait four or five weeks. My reputation has been besmirched, and I am not being given a chance to clear myself. I can't see why I should have to live under the cloud of being a blackmailer. I have a shrewd idea of what other charges are to be made against me, and if they are brought up, I will bring up some, too."

#### Protest Delay.

"It may be two or three months

before Sir James Dunn is back," protested Dr. Roberts. "In the meantime, I have to make a living. I asked in my resolution before the House that the committee be called forthwith and it was accepted by the Government."

The suggestion that Sir James Dunn might easily have postponed his trip to the Old Country and come to Toronto to give evidence instead, was made by Mr. Heighington. It drew from Mr. Croll the retort that when Sir James booked his passage, there was no indication that there would be a committee inquiry or that his presence would be required.

Mr. Baird said that in a month's time Premier Hepburn would probably be on his way to the Coronation and thus would be unable to give evidence.

"Let the honorable member speak for himself," retorted Mr. Croll. "He has no authority to presume what the Prime Minister will do. If the Prime Minister is required by this committee he will be here."

## SPEED LIMIT TO BE RAISED

50 Miles Per Hour Approved  
by Committee of  
Legislature

### McQUESTEN OPPOSED

Approval was given by Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday to a bill increasing the motoring speed limit in this Province from 35 to 50 miles an hour on the open highway. A limit of thirty miles per hour is to apply in cities, towns and built-up areas.

The committee's action was by way of a compromise on legislation from Major James Clark (Lib., Windsor-Sandwich) which advocated the abolition of the present limit altogether. An attempt to defeat the Clark measure was rejected by 16 to 12. The compromise legislation carried on a vote of 14-11.

It is understood that when it comes before the House proper for third reading, it will be strenuously opposed by Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways.

The designation of "built up areas" will be left to the Highways Department. Although thirty miles per hour is the limit set for them under the proposed law, the municipal councils concerned may pass by-laws regulating the speed within their parks to fifteen miles per hour.