

year, the Prime Minister told the House. "The Opposition feel there is an election in the offing. I must disillusion them on this point," said Mr. Hepburn. This was his only reference to the question of going to the people.

The Premier stressed the danger of religious warfare and he laid responsibility for inciting trouble on the doorstep of the Conservative Party. He quoted Earl Rowe, Conservative Leader, as saying that the Government's legislation would "arouse long-dormant antagonisms for which our grandfathers bled and for which our grandchildren will bleed."

"They threatened us with this kind of stuff," said Mr. Hepburn.

"They did not discuss the question on its merits. They were content to stir up religious feeling and prejudice.

"The greatest economists and financiers could not have told how our legislation would work out. My honorable friends opposite say the failure of the legislation was due to faulty drafting, that may be so, though we engaged the best brains available. But the real reason why it is keen disappointment is because of our peculiar financial structure which exists today.

"Great Disappointment."

"I find the legislation is a very great disappointment," went on the Prime Minister, "but, I challenge any one to tell us where we erred. True we had some court decisions to which we submit, but with which I do not agree. I say the act has been a failure. No one has been more sincere than myself (applause). I stood up in this House a year ago and introduced the measure which I thought would bring a greater degree of equity to a religious minority.

"However, I find the act as it stands is not workable," declared Mr. Hepburn. "It is not workable under present-day conditions. I am going to accept the motion of my honorable friend the Leader of the Opposition."

To Replace Section 65.

The Premier stopped speaking to allow a burst of desk-thumping from the Opposition to subside.

"We are not only going to repeal the act, but we are going to reinsert Section 65, which brings the act back to where it was in 1863," went on Mr. Hepburn.

"An even greater responsibility than bringing justice to a religious minority rests on the Government. It is the responsibility of maintain-

ing peace and harmony. (Applause.) I know my honorable friends opposite will applaud just as heartily when I say that every child, irrespective of religion, is entitled to a proper education. That is our responsibility to all our citizens, Protestant and Roman Catholic alike.

"Canada's history has been a story of progress and development. I am not going to allow the Opposition to mar that record to inject a religious issue to satisfy their own lust for office and their own political ambitions. They opened sores in East Hastings that will not be closed in a generation. There is nothing to commend them. I have one idea," said the Prime Minister. "There is the memory of a man for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration and whose picture stands on my desk. It is Laurier. In 1917, when the Conservatives were making rapid progress in the general election, advisers came to Laurier and said he could win the election if he made the racial appeal to the people of Quebec.

"Laurier said, and I commend his words to the Opposition, the Conservative Leader-at-large, and the Secretary of the Conservative Party, Colonel George Drew, these words: 'I do not want to open the door of power with a bloody key.'

Denounces Conservatives.

There was a prolonged period of desk-banging from the Liberals at these historic words. It was not the first time the Conservatives had resorted to the basest type of campaign to obtain their own ends, charged the Premier. He denounced those "who would walk into power over the bowed heads of those who would afterward be ashamed of their part in a religious battle."

The amicable relations now existing between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec were referred to by the Premier, who dealt at length with the necessity of maintaining accord with the sister Province for the benefit of both.

"It is my responsibility to forestall the possibility of a religious war in this Province," declared Mr. Hepburn, amid applause. "I am man enough to stand up and take it on the chin for what is for me a bitter pill. I wish to commend the Toronto Star for its fairness, and I feel I should go out of my way to commend The Globe and Mail for pointing out the danger of a religious war in Ontario.

"No doubt my friends on the opposite side of the House will have ample opportunity to gloat over the

situation. But I am not worried, because so long as the Liberal Party follows Liberal policies in devotion to the cause of the common people, so long will its leaders be vilified," the Prime Minister asserted. "We are prepared to give at all costs economic justice to those who have earned it. I want to give the definite assurance to the Catholic minority of Ontario that the Liberal Party will give justice and equity to all people, regardless of race or religion."