

March 25

LIQUOR CHARGE TO BE PROBED

Hepburn to Appear Before Public Accounts Commit- tee of Legislature

The Public Accounts Committee yesterday ordered Premier Hepburn to appear before a special session of the committee April 22, when charges that he and J. J. Glass (Lib., Toronto -St. Andrew) interfered with Liquor Board administration will be investigated.

New evidence concerning the charges was claimed by Arthur Ellis (Cons., Ottawa South). He offered to give his information to Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck "privately and confidentially," and, in heated debate with Morgan Baker (Lib., North York), offered to stake his seat that the information justified a thorough probe of the charges if Mr. Baker would stake his seat on the outcome of the inquiry.

Others ordered to appear before the committee are Mr. Glass; E. G. Odette, Liquor Commissioner; Walter and Nina Osborne, whose names were signed to an affidavit alleging interference; Beecher Dennis, proprietor of the Hotel Dennis; and Arnold Smith, Deputy Liquor Commissioner.

Interference Charged.

"I can prove that there has been interference in the administration of the Liquor Control Board," declared Mr. Ellis. He was supported by Hon. George S. Henry, who read the affidavits in the House on a previous occasion. "The affidavits

clearly point to interference," he said.

"You have only one object—to keep this matter before the people and have it published all over again," said Morgan Baker.

"I have more evidence. Are you willing to hear it?" retorted Mr. Ellis.

"I do not want to hear what you assume," the Liberal member replied. Mr. Morgan charged the affidavits were signed by "political thugs."

"Then why not bring them before the committee and get the thing whitewashed?" asked Mr. Ellis.

Mr. Baker again assailed Mr. Ellis, charging the whole affair was a "vile attack."

"You are opposed to it because you are afraid there might be something behind it," replied the Conservative.