

# TORIES LASHED WHEN HEPBURN ENTERS DEBATE

Premier Flays Wide Range  
of Critics; Deals With  
Attacks

EARL ROWE IS INCLUDED

Long smarting under the persistent attacks that were made by Conservatives of the Henry Administration against him as "leader at large," before he headed his victorious following into Queen's Park in 1934, Premier Hepburn yesterday in the Legislature, gleefully returned the attacks with references to Hon. Earl Rowe, Leader of the Conservatives in Ontario and a member of the House of Commons.

The Premier's enjoyment was as obvious as the discomfiture of the Conservative Opposition. Never, during the intervening years, has he let fall the memory of those early wounds as he pressed his attacks upon Hon. George S. Henry. And today, he turned his fire upon the member for East York.

"My honorable friend from East York used to call me 'leader at large.'" How does he like now having a "leader at large," he gibed.

**Was Ready to Quit.**

The Premier said that when he resigned from his seat in the House of Commons and stood for election in the Ontario campaign of 1934, he was determined that if he lost he would quit the leadership of the Provincial Liberal Party. He contended that Mr. Rowe, unlike Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Conservative House Leader, was not in a position to take a stand on the invasion of Provincial rights by the Federal Government.

"In our presentation to the Rowell Commission we are going to demand Ontario's inherent right to prior rights to the application of the income tax. If we get that right we are prepared to look after our own relief entirely and to rehabilitate the municipalities. You can't support that with your leader under Federal influence," the Premier said.

Again he digressed to chide the Opposition about their "leadership caucus" in the Albany Club when "they played eeny-meeny-miny-moe to decide who would be leader."

"I am surprised," he went on, "that my honorable friend didn't say anything about the Liquor Control Board. He probably has his ear to the ground. I would like to point out to him that Leamington—dry old Leamington—held a vote and 1,682 voted for beer and wine authorities, while 960 voted against it. That probably accounts for his silence."

"Then there is Petrolia—dry Petrolia. The vote there was 476 for and 513 against. But Blenheim is the most interesting. Three years ago, when they took a vote, the result was 409 for and 447 against. The former Mayor of Blenheim, a friend of mine, told me that Blenheim was infested with 'beer dives.' Their recent opinion, when they took a vote, was 623 for and 427 against."

## Christmas Accidents.

"I was criticized for the number of accidents that occurred at Christmas time. Most of them were not due to the beer parlors. After all, beer is a liquid with a comparatively low content of alcohol. I would look with disdain upon any Scotchman who got drunk on beer. Beer is more of a food than an intoxicant. I am not fond of it, but many people are."

"Last Christmas there were icy street conditions here. But I was blamed for the accidents, although I wasn't even in the city at the time. In Montreal there are 7,352 outlets (for beer) and there are 311 here (Toronto). Montreal had one minor traffic accident. Here, where there was a bad icy condition, there were innumerable accidents. In my home town (St. Thomas) they're better behaved. They didn't have any."

"Any municipality can petition for a vote if they don't want beer and wine, and if they vote against it we will revoke the beer authorities. At the same time, if any town wants beer and wine and votes for it, we will give it to them."

The Premier recalled that Mr.

Macaulay questioned the Government on the disposition of Government House long after the edifice had been sold.

# CIVIL SERVICE REFORM URGED

Opposition Leader Suggests  
Danger of Tammany Hall  
Bureaucracy

## REVIEWS APPOINTMENTS

Hon. Leopold Macaulay told the Ontario Legislature yesterday that the time was ripe to move toward civil service reform under the British system in Ontario, and urged the Hepburn Government to make some constructive suggestions to the Rowell Commission along this line.

"With all the complex problems now facing Governments," said he, "and with the expansion of Government services in all directions, it is going to require the ablest, most independent, most incorruptible Civil Service to prevent democracy degenerating into Tammany Hall bureaucracy."

The time has also arrived, he said, when the Province could not afford to pay for "any excessive decorative effects in Government." A real spirit of economy with good driving force behind it, could work wonders, he said, "shaking off some of the pleasant parasites that cling to the tree." "Let the Prime Minister go to it with a pruning knife and trim them down, and I'll support him whole-heartedly," he said.

**Patronage Practiced.**

"Patronage as practiced by this Government," he said, "will in the fullness of time bring about its own downfall. In this connection look at the number of defeated or retired Liberal members who are being put on the payroll of this Province. W. J. Bragg, Liquor Control Board (of all places to put him); F. H. Avery, Labor and Industry Board; William Newman, Agriculture Department (there'd be a fine fellow for the Liquor Commission); W. D. Smith, Health Department; R. S. Colter, Chairman Municipal Board (and a fine lawyer, too); J. A. Faulkner, Chairman Pensions and Mothers' Allowances; Earl Hutchinson, Workmen's Compensation Board; D. J. Taylor, Game and Fisheries; Arnold Smith, Liquor Control Board; E. G. Odette, Liquor Board; and last, but not least, Duncan Marshall, Senate. I was glad

to see that after all his strenuous campaigning he eventually landed something. Apparently most every one is delighted he missed out on the Government House appointment."

**Would Cut Taxes.**

With reference to Ontario's burden of taxes, Mr. Macaulay submitted that either the present number of taxing bodies should be reduced or the burden of taxation cut down, or both. "Canada," he said, "is the most over-governed country in the world. Everybody works one day out of five for the Government. There is only one taxpayer, and that is Jack Canuck. He pays all the taxes, whether they are imposed on companies, partnerships or individuals. They come out of the ultimate consumer and producer, Mr. Average Citizen. He pays the freight on this tremendous burden of over-government. I wonder just how long he'll stand for it."