

RELIEF ROLLS UP BY 94,000, SAYS HEPBURN

Reveals Rise Since October
While Charging Ottawa
Has Broken Faith

FLAYS ILSLEY, ROGERS

Ontario's relief rolls have increased from 166,000 in October to 260,000 in February, Premier Hepburn revealed late yesterday in the Ontario Legislature as he flayed the Federal Government's relief grant policy and charged the Ottawa Liberal administration with having broken faith with the electors on the election promise of adopting a national relief program.

In angry tones, the Premier, immediately before adjournment, called the attention of the House, first to a speech made by Hon. J. L. Ilesley, National Revenue Minister, in Montreal, Saturday night and then to a statement issued the same day from Ottawa by Hon. Norman Rogers, Minister of Labor.

Mr. Ilesley, he said, had been discussing his resolution that the Federal Government should recognize the Provinces' prior rights in the field of income tax and had placed great stress upon the opinion that the Dominion's moral and legal right to the tax was secure.

Called Ill-Advised.

"Mr. Ilesley's speech in Montreal was ill-advised and ill-timed, particularly as he knew it was under debate in this Legislature," said Premier Hepburn. "In discussing it he showed a total lack of courtesy and he showed a total lack of understanding because we have never questioned the Dominion's legal rights."

He then turned his fire upon Mr. Rogers for having stated that the form of the present agreements between the Federal and Provincial Governments on relief grants had been decided upon after a consultation with the Provincial Governments.

The statement was "wide of the facts," charged the Premier. He reviewed briefly early agreements, emphasizing how, when Ottawa first cut its appropriation, the Province had taken up the deficiency and relieved the municipalities of the additional burden.

Says Conference Abortive.

He charged also that on Mr. Rogers's invitation Ontario Government officials went to Ottawa for a relief conference, only to be told that the matter had been settled two days before in Cabinet Council.

"We had no opportunity of conferring with the Dominion Government," said the Premier.

In October, he said, Ottawa made further reductions in relief appropriations without consulting the Provincial authorities. Then, he claimed, the Federal Minister submitted another agreement, based on the principle of segregating the relief recipients into employables and unemployables, "which indicated to me their intention of shoving the employables off onto the municipalities."

He then gave the relief figures for October and February, showing there had been an increase of 94,000 on the rolls since the beginning of the autumn month, with an increase of from \$1,351,000 to \$2,200,000 in the Provincial relief costs.

Below Year Ago.

"How did the February figures compare with February, 1937?" asked Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Conservative House Leader.

Hon. Eric Cross, Minister of Welfare, said the 1938 figures were about 100,000 below those of February, 1937.

"But we were getting about \$800,000 from the Dominion then; now we are only getting \$465,000," said the Premier.

He stated that at the present time the Province was paying 45 per cent of the cost, and the Dominion about 20 per cent.

"If they continue the policy of segregation it will be down to 10 per cent," the Premier added. "It is most unfair, particularly when you consider how the honorable gentlemen at Ottawa were elected on the promise of making relief a national problem."

TORONTO BILLS ARE ADVANCED

Large Variety of Subjects
Covered by Amendment
to Municipal Act

Legislation affecting the City of Toronto and incorporated in bills to amend the Municipal Act and the University Act, were given second reading in the Legislature yesterday on motions of their sponsors, Ian Strachan, Liberal Whip, St. George and Allan Lamport, Lib., St. David.

The Municipal Act amendment had bearing on items varying in character from requests for authority to license pet shops, electricians, and persons engaged in the installation of heating equipment to a clause that would enable the city to license persons who opened up temporary stores at the Christmas and Easter seasons. The last section is intended to provide a remedy against unfair competition to established business enterprises. Another clause would give corporations the right to vote at municipal elections.

Mr. Lamport said the purpose of his amendment was to correct what appeared to be a "glaring injustice in Section 15 of the University Act, which provides that where land is not used for university purposes, but is occupied by a tenant only, the interest of the tenant only is assessable for municipal purposes."

The bill provides that the property of the University of Toronto leased to tenants shall be assessed in the same manner as Crown lands which are leased to tenants. In this way, Mr. Lamport explained, the tenant would be assessed in the same way as if the lands, instead of being owned by the university, were held by any other person. The tenant would be assessed for the full value of the land, but the interest of the university could not be sold to satisfy taxes.

In illustration, he said that one piece of university land valued at \$78,300 is occupied by a tenant. The lease has about three years to run and the value of the tenant's interest for which he is assessable is \$240. The tenant, accordingly, can be required to pay taxes only on \$240 instead of \$73,300.

"Another property in the busiest part of Yonge Street is owned by the university and is occupied by a tenant for commercial purposes," said Mr. Lamport. "The land is worth \$136,000, but because the tenant pays to the university the full rent of the property, his interest for the purpose of assessment is valueless and accordingly, this tenant escapes payment of taxes on land to the value of \$136,000."

Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Conservative House Leader, said he had no objection to the bill passing in second reading if the university was to be heard in committee. Premier Hepburn said that full hearing would be given.