

April 7

# Hepburn Balks at Deal On Defaulted Bonds

In his added capacity of Provincial Treasurer, Premier Hepburn last night refused to accept responsibility for negotiating settlements with municipalities in default in payment of debentures held by the Treasury, and for exchanging such debenture for new debentures.

Provisions in the Statute Law Amendment Act, as sponsored by Attorney-General Conant, provided for such responsibilities, but Mr. Hepburn turned them down cold and demanded and obtained their deletion.

"I'm not going to have that responsibility on my shoulders," he told the House.

"Why not?" asked former Labor Welfare Minister David A. Croll.

With some \$4,000,000 in debentures outstanding, said Mr. Hepburn, he did not think any Treasurer of Ontario should have the right to negotiate settlements in regard thereto.

"Who should," said Mr. Croll.

"The Legislature," said the Premier, "I would be prepared to negotiate a tentative settlement, but it would have to come to the Legislature for approval."

Mr. Croll claimed that the Prime Minister was "modest"—that the fact was that he, as Treasurer, had negotiated settlement of some \$20,000,000 in succession duties and there hadn't been "one whisper of criticism against him."

Some one said he had to settle these municipal debentures problems. To have the Legislature do it, could mean, said he, that a tentative settlement might be reached in April of one year and yet have to wait until spring of the next for ratification.

The Premier was adamant in his stand, however, and the provisions to which he so strenuously objected were withdrawn by Mr. Conant.

## **Province Will Spend \$75,000 to Combat Bang's Disease**

In line with a policy indicated earlier in the Ontario Legislature by Hon. P. M. Dewan, Minister of Agriculture, the department has set aside \$75,000 to be spent this year into research and study of Bang's disease in cattle.

Indication of the importance of the project may be gauged by the fact that Millhills Ransom, the \$15,000 Shorthorn bull, imported to strengthen breeding stock and which died yesterday at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, at one time reacted positively to the Bang's disease test.

From agriculturists on both sides of the House, it has been emphasized that Bang's disease was an ever-increasing peril to the interests of live stock breeders.