

April 9

## Macaulay Charges Journals Subsidized

Claiming the time had come when no Government should be permitted to operate a "kept-journals" policy, Opposition Leader Leopold Macaulay charged before the Legislature yesterday that prior to the October general election the Hepburn Administration had "subsidized journals" to the extent of more than \$265,000, all for the purpose, he added, "of influencing public opinion" in a political sense.

The figures Mr. Macaulay used concerned only the larger newspapers and periodicals, he said, and had been taken from a return demanded of the Government shortly after the session had opened, but brought down to the House—"for obvious reasons"—only on Thursday. "I haven't had time to go through the return thoroughly," he said, "but I find there are a lot of smaller journals that benefited from the Government's policy as well. I don't think public expenditures of this sort can be justified, and that's why, before the session closes, I am making a public protest against them."

The publication, Jack Canuck, said he, had been given advertising to the amount of \$3,450 two months before the election.

### Premier Explains.

"The sole purpose of that was to influence—" he was saying, when Premier Hepburn cut in with the explanation that the infantile paralysis epidemic had been raging in the Province at that time, and that the Government, in order to combat it, had ordered an immediate educational campaign in all the press of the Province, big and little. Advertising had even been given to the Communist paper, and every one knew, he said, how little use he had for Communists. He wanted information on polio in every newspaper for the benefit of suffering humanity.

"Well, now, let's just let some of the air out of that balloon," Mr. Macaulay replied. "From this return with which I have been supplied, I find that the money you spent on Jack Canuck was about ten times as much as you spent on

some of the larger newspapers with ten times the circulation. I suspected something funny had gone on; that's why I ordered this return."

Mr. Hepburn argued the return accounted for all forms of newspaper advertising, but Mr. Macaulay said no provision for advertising expenditures, anything like those of 1937, had been included in the estimates for this year. "Apparently," said he, "the advertising set-up of the Government has narrowed down again, but when another election rolls around in 1942, it will be expanding again like a concertina."

"You ought to know," some Liberal back-bencher gibed.

The subsidy to Jack Canuck, said Mr. Macaulay, had kept that now defunct paper "alive until after election day." And Hush, which had got an advertising account of some \$800, had also been able to operate until after the election was over.

"Saturday Night is still going," said Attorney-General Conant.

"But it won't be for very long, I imagine, if the Premier has his way," Mr. Macaulay shot back.

The Opposition Leader objected to the Government's policy of assisting such "kept journals."

"They are rats," Colonel Fraser Hunter (Liberal, St. Patrick), shouted across the Chamber.

"Whatever they are," said Mr. Macaulay, "expenditures on them, by this Government or any other, solely for political purposes, cannot be justified under any conditions."

## NEEDY STUDENT MAY BE AIDED BY BURSARIES

### Education Minister Reveals He Is Considering Plan to Assist Deserving

### QUERIED BY MACAULAY

Plight of the industrious student, barred from a university education by a lack of money, received sympathetic consideration yesterday in Ontario Legislature, when Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, revealed that he had under consideration plans for providing aid in the form of bursaries and scholarships.

Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Opposition House Leader and President of the University of Toronto Alumni Federation, drew the problem to the attention of the Legislature while members were considering university grants in the estimates.

Mr. Macaulay said he was not so greatly concerned about the university appropriations as he was about the failure of Governments to give assistance to deserving students. The universities, he claimed, "were cluttered up" by large numbers of students of indifferent ability, while many deserving students were barred. He suggested that a system might be devised of giving to these students direct monetary assistance.

"That is a matter dear to my own heart," replied Dr. Simpson, and he revealed that he had intended to make a statement on the matter. He then pointed out the matter was under consideration.

Colonel T. A. Kidd, Kingston, appealed for higher grants to Queen's University in his own city, and for the University of Western Ontario in London. He pointed out that the University of Toronto grant, last year, was increased by 20 per cent

## Conant Promises Law to Deal With Impersonation of Voters

Special legislation to deal adequately with cases of impersonation of voters will be brought down to the Legislature, at its next session, by Attorney-General Conant, unless in the meantime Federal Ottawa finds some method of satisfactorily dealing with the question.

Surely, said Mr. Conant yesterday, impersonation offenses were equally as serious as any species of frauds, and should be as severely dealt with by the law.

The Attorney-General's assurance of immediate consideration of the matter developed after Opposition Leader Macaulay charged that during the election of last October impersonation, to all appearances, had been more rampant than ever before. "I don't say," he said, "that party

organizations are altogether to blame. Sometimes the excess zeal of the individual is responsible. But I feel strongly that people who resort to impersonation should be put in jail."

No apparent remedy under the Criminal Code was available, he said. And without heavy costs no justice could be obtained through petitioning under the Controverted Elections Act. Something, however, had to be done about the question, and it was, more or less, up to the Attorney-General.

Scores of complaints, he said, had reached him since the October vote. These, the Attorney-General replied, had not reached his ears. Mr. Macaulay then promised to pass over his information to Mr. Conant for consideration.