

# Legislature's Debate On Welcome to King Drifts Wide of Issue

W. J. Stewart Raps Professor's Comments on Shrinking Empire; Col. Fraser Hunter Opens Fire on Statute of Westminster; Duckworth Calls Hitler Mad Dog of Europe, Draws Rebuke

35 LEFT IN CHAMBER WHEN VOTE TAKEN

Bound by a common loyalty to the Crown, members of the Ontario Legislature yesterday gave a pulse-quickenning declaration of fealty to their King, who next May 22, accompanied by his Royal Consort, will face them in the Legislative Chamber.

By a standing vote, they endorsed a resolution, moved by Premier Hepburn and seconded by Colonel George A. Drew, which not only gave expression to their allegiance, but served as a message of welcome to their Majesties.

And while the terms of the resolution were being debated, while members spoke with feeling of their devotion to the cause of Empire and of British democratic principles, speakers took advantage of the very free speech ideal which they lauded to spar over the flag issue, to scotch the Statute of Westminster and to enunciate in no uncertain terms, despite constitutional disagreements, the principle that when "Britain is at war, we are at war."

## Conant Rebukes Member.

Hon. Gordon Conant, Attorney-General, took occasion also to rap William Duckworth (Cons., Dovercourt), who, in praising the part Mr. Chamberlain had played in averting the crisis at the Munich meeting, said it had been brought on by "a mad dog of Europe."

"It was," said Mr. Conant, "neither the time nor the place for remarks derogatory to the head of any state or of any government."

The flag incident was injected before the House by W. J. Stewart (Cons., Parkdale), when he informed the members he belonged to an organization whose only qualification for entry was the applicant's belief in God and the Empire and his status as a British citizen. In it, he said, was taught oneism, the ism of patriotism. He believed, he said, Canada should be contented with one flag, the Union Jack. Teachers, he advised the Minister of Education, should be instructed to teach the meaning of the flag.

"A professor of the University of Toronto, if he was correctly reported, should be put where he belongs, definitely out," he snapped, as applause rippled from both sides of the House. "He said the flag should be made of wool so that it would shrink with the British Empire."

Mr. Stewart said he was not flag-waving, but he did suggest that people should do some flag-thinking. And, in conclusion, he said the visit of their Majesties should impress upon Canadians that the future of Canada was bound in the future of Great Britain and the Empire and

that the Dominions were co-partners in the Empire.

"We accept all the benefits, do we accept the responsibility?" he asked.

## Views Meet Challenge.

J. A. Habel (Lib., Cochrane North) took direct issue with Mr. Stewart on the flag problem. At the same time he emphasized that as one of French descent he did not take a back seat to any one in his loyalty to the Crown.

"I am disappointed in the former speakers," said Mr. Habel. "They have spoken about Britain and the Commonwealth, but very little of our own country. If such eloquence is to be taught to the children at school why not teach them patriotism of our own country."

At this juncture he was interrupted by a quick hand-clap from the public gallery.

"If we want to have in the country real patriotism we need to stir up our youth. To make them feel as a Canadian born citizen, we should have our own flag, the same as every other nation of the Commonwealth. The sooner we have our flag, the sooner youth will be united around our own flag and the sooner youth will realize they are Canadians and under the Statute of Westminster members of a nation holding allegiance to Great Britain.

## Salute Him as Canada's King.

"If he is the King of Canada, let us have our flag to salute him as the King of Canada. We as French-Canadians are absolutely loyal to his Majesty and think we are most fortunate in having a King as we have today."

A century, claimed Mr. Habel, has already taught Canadians that the two races could live together and in a united defense of democracy.

When the resolution was put to a standing vote at 5 p.m., only thirty-five of the ninety members were left in the House. The possibility that their ranks would be thinned was hinted by Premier Hepburn Thursday, when he pointed out that many had to leave early in order to catch their trains for their week-end journeys home. At the same time, he said then, there would not be any attempt to shorten the debate or to deprive any one of the right of expression on the resolution.

In presenting it yesterday, the Premier explained briefly it was deemed advisable to have the resolution passed by the House so that it could be presented to their Majesties. To that end, at the close of the debate and with the assent of the House, it was ordered that

the resolution be drawn up in an engraved form.

Col. Drew, in seconding the resolution, emphasized strongly that the arrangements for their Majesties' reception should be of a character that would allow them to see as many of their subjects, particularly the children, as was possible. He said he saw a tendency on the part of some committees to lean to the stilted and formalized type of reception. This, he believed, would not fall within the wishes of their Majesties.

"They will be more impressed," said the Conservative leader, "if we do not attempt too much formality."

He saw an opportunity in the forthcoming visit for teachers to impress upon the children the "decent, British things," for which their Sovereigns stood, to instruct them that "behind the pomp they may see a simple man and woman who occupy the Throne of England.

"The schools could not do better," added Colonel Drew, "than to report the message of the late King George V, who in his address by radio to his people in that Jubilee Year, spoke to the children, saying: 'Remember, in the days to come you will be citizens of a great empire. Be ready and willing to serve that empire with hand, heart and mind.'"

From the Liberal benches came a reference to another radio address, that of Prime Minister Chamberlain, when he warned the British Commonwealth of Nations "we must be prepared to defend ourselves from attack, not only on our homes and land, but on our principles of freedom."

On that occasion, said Colonel Fraser Hunter, he was speaking on behalf of the King of Canada. He then appealed to the House: "Has not Great Britain been doing her share and doing it not only every day, but is besides an example to the world?"

## Attacks Westminster Statute.

Colonel Hunter claimed that the effect of the Statute of Westminster, passed in 1931, giving Dominion status to the major units in the empire, had shorn the empire of its old-time unity and strength. "It has seemed," he said, "to be like a jelly fish stranded on the shore. Everywhere there is weakness, and nowhere is the virility of the pre-war empire.

"Notwithstanding The Globe and Mail, which suggests that nothing has been done down at Ottawa, something has been done. They passed a bill to make the anniversary of the signing of the Statute of Westminster a public holiday."

"They must be exhausted down there," suggested Mr. Hepburn.

Colonel Hunter agreed and maintained that if the Statute of Westminster were handed back, the Empire would find greater unity and strength under the old Empire status. Recently, he charged, the Dominions have awakened from their "Rip Van Winkle sleep," became aware of the threats to their security, and again looked to Britain for succor. "The British Commonwealth of Nations does not possess the vigor of the old British Empire," Colonel Hunter declared, adding that the British people were doing their share, and asked: "But what are we doing?"

Richard Arnott (Cons., West Hastings) was sharply critical of the necessity of having to instruct youth in Canada on the advantages of democracy. The young people of Canada, he said, have got to the point of thinking they are "the forgotten people," he said, and in saying it declared his motives were not political; that he felt ashamed of the paucity of support given by Ottawa.