

"That will not do," snapped the Premier, and the Speaker reminded him that he had referred to the members as clowns.

"I will not waste the time of the House debating the point with the Speaker," said Colonel Drew. "I withdraw. Let those laugh who have not the wisdom to follow another course."

Colonel Drew again referred to the last election, when, he said, the people of the province approved the back-to-Niagara power policy which was advanced by the Premier as a major campaign issue. He pointed out that that mandate of the people had not been followed.

"Nothing would stimulate Canada more than if this House exerted its free right to vote and put the usurper out of office. Nothing would so restore public confidence in democracy by proving here, when the vote on the amendment is taken, that the members have the courage to forget politics and vote for a united Canada," said the Opposition Leader.

Welfare Beyond Politics.

Colonel Drew recalled that in the past there have been innumerable speeches made in the Throne Speech debate. In spite of laughter, he said, he still had hope that some would think in terms of national unity and would realize that "national welfare and provincial welfare supersedes mere party politics."

"What I have said," he declared, indicating the Conservative members, "has the approval of the Opposition. I have said all I propose to say on this subject. A succession of speeches would not serve to strengthen the argument."

Then, while the Government side sat in silence, he continued: "There will be no further Conservative speeches in the House on this debate. In the meantime we are waiting for the budget and waiting for this House to get down to business."

There was a brief upsurge of sound, and Colonel Drew was observed speaking again: "In answer to the interruption from the rear," he said, "no matter what dictatorship there may be in this House, it neither comes from myself nor from members of the Opposition. The course I am following to cut down an unnecessary waste of time was proposed by the men behind me in order that we may get down to the business of this House."

Hepburn Hits Back.

Rising sharply to the attack in reply, Premier Hepburn first admitted he was amazed that Colonel Drew concluded when he did.

"The only conclusion I arrived at, he was afraid to say here what he has said on the hustings. We are here to answer him. And when he says I ought to hear what Liberals are saying about me, let me tell him he ought to hear what Conservatives are saying about him," the Premier jibed to the accompaniment of a roll of desk pounding from the Liberals.

The Premier said he did not know that Prime Minister King had such a strange bed-fellow as the Leader of the Opposition. He referred to Colonel Drew's reference to the possibility of Mr. King flying to St. Thomas on a mission of appeasement.

"Let me tell him, that when he talks of appeasement, he should go down on his hands and knees to the former Premier (indicating Hon. George S. Henry) for the ruthless

treatment he has accorded him. There is no arctic blast as cold as a man's ingratitude.

"He, the former Premier, appointed him to the Securities Frauds Commission at a salary of \$10,000 a year—this gentleman who now sets himself up as a critic of the government, which incidentally still enjoys the confidence of the people. Let me tell him he has a record of his own to justify. I will put the record of this government up to him and to his former government any day."

Premier Hepburn then charged that during Colonel Drew's tenancy of the Securities Frauds Commission branch, there was a deficit of \$49,000, as compared with a succession of surpluses under Liberal administration amounting to \$267,000.

Too Wary for Trap.

The Premier declared he was "too old a politician" to get caught in a trap such as Colonel Drew's charges relating to his differences with Premier King. The differences between the province and Ottawa were based on differences in policy, and he held that in his presentation to the Rowell Commission, he had a certain distinct responsibility to Ontario. The Western Provinces, at that time, had presented their briefs and had "depicted Ontario as the exploiter of Western Canada."

"Were it not for Ontario's natural resources and the industry of her people," declared the Premier, "the economic structure of Canada would crack. I favor national unity as I always have, but a national unity with some understanding," he said, in adding that Ontario paid 47.5 per cent of all federal taxation.

He cited Ontario's contributions toward the fish and coal subsidies in the Maritimes. He recited how he had opposed the building of the Hudson Bay Railway, when he was a member at Ottawa, at a cost of \$50,000,000 borrowed capital, and how he had been told that the West wanted it to give it an ocean outlet for her wheat. He declared it was admitted at Ottawa that it was a "political railway."

Ontario, he said, was subsidizing Western wheat to the ports and was subsidizing Western coal to Ontario. Then, last year, Ottawa undertook to subsidize Western wheat, with the result there is a reported loss to the government of \$70,000,000.

Ontario Farmer Pays.

"And while the Ontario farmer is helping to pay that loss, the Western farmer is getting eighty cents for his wheat and our own farmers are getting seventy cents for theirs.

"And you wouldn't protest a thing of this kind," snapped the Premier, as he challenged the Conservative leader to go out to the hustings and talk to the Ontario farmers on this policy.

"Methinks," he added, "the leader of the Opposition is being a little too anxious to get over here."

He attacked the Conservative leader on his approval of Australian policy, quoting from Colonel Drew's Fort William speech to the effect, he supposed, "the Premier would come back from his Australian trip with some economy lunacy."

Colonel Drew said he had never approved Australia's financial system.

"I suggest," retorted Mr. Hepburn, "that the honorable leader of the Opposition has become as consistent as his predecessor (Hon. Leopold Macaulay), who is now sitting there like the end man of a minstrel show."

Smiling broadly, Colonel Drew demanded a retraction. The Speaker ruled, that since the Conservative leader had withdrawn the reference to "clowns," that Premier Hepburn should also withdraw.

will withdraw it, and just say that he is the end man," said the Premier, while the entire House dissolved in laughter, laughter in which Mr. Macaulay, sitting at the end of the Conservative front row, joined.

Question of Duplication.

The Premier quoted a speech by Mr. Macaulay, at Mount Dennis, in which he advocated the abolition of five departments of government, among them, the Department of Agriculture. Continuing, he quoted a second speech of June, 1934, in which Mr. Macaulay said: "Ontario could not afford to do without the Department of Agriculture."

Mr. Macaulay explained that his speech on that occasion was a follow to an election speech of Mr. Hepburn, "in which you yourself advocated the abolition of three departments, and in that respect, I am the end man."

Mr. Hepburn said farmers in Ontario, in the face of increasing marketing difficulties, were relying more and more on the services of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

"Don't you agree there are many

duplications?" asked Mr. Macaulay.

"I don't know of any," the Premier replied. "And if you know of any, it is your duty to report them at the time the budget is brought down."

He turned again to the Conservative leader and charged there was disunity within the Opposition. "They are not," he said, "solidly behind the good-looking leader. I warn him you can't win the Premiership of the Province of Ontario on good looks alone. I know that myself. I had quite a struggle to get here."

Shoe on Other Foot.

Mr. Hepburn said that Colonel Drew had been prone to charge the Ontario Government with unfairness in dealing with Ottawa. Was not the shoe on the other foot? he, in effect, asked. In the matter of taxation on the gold mines of Ontario, for instance, Ottawa in 1936-37 had collected \$9,876,000, whereas all the province got was \$2,788,000. In spite of this unfair position, against which he raised protest, the province had had to meet the increasingly heavy obligations in relief, school services, Hydro, etc., resulting from the lean years period.

The road problem was another acute one, he said. Expenditures on the roads system exceeded by more than \$2,000,000 annually the revenue collections from motors taxation, in spite of what many people believed, and in spite of what the Opposition Leader might argue. He believed that the building of roads at the present time was a good capital investment, but the government could not only go so far and satisfactorily maintain its financing position and budget structure.

Ridiculing Colonel Drew's recent northern tour promises of how and where he would build the Trans-Canada route, Mr. Hepburn called attention to the enormous costs of such construction, and proposed that the House debate the whole highways system before the present session ended. He rather subscribed, he said, to the proposed policy of his Minister of Highways to furnish northern highways with dust-proof surfaces.

He had learned from personal experience, and frequent contacts with American tourist-travellers, that they refused to travel any distance over gravelled roads such as the north, in the main, possessed. There was a difference of opinion, admittedly, said he, as to whether the government should continue spending huge sums of money on new roads and maintenance of old. It meant, of course, going more and