

CHANGE POLICY IN EDUCATION

Provincial Spending to Be Directed Toward Lower Schools; 'Cluttering Up Professions,' Says Hepburn

AID URGED FOR NEEDY

Government spending in education has been directed from higher education, with its effect of "cluttering up the professions," Premier Hepburn yesterday advised the Legislature in defense of the administration's budget-announced plan of cutting university grants.

"Our grants in education for the coming year have been increased by \$2,000,000," he advised Colonel T. A. Kidd (Con., Kingston) and a heated critic of the government policy. "We are taking up the problems of the different municipalities which are having difficulty in raising sufficient money for their schools. The former government was all too generous toward higher education. We are cluttering up the profession. The universities are largely attended by the sons and daughters of wealthy parents. Let us go on assisting education by relieving those who are striving to support a home."

The policy, earlier had been approved, with regret, by Dr. A. S. Duncan (Lib., London), who chided Western University students for having demonstrated against the \$25,000 cut ordered for that college.

He, at the same time, expressed sympathy with the protest, but pointed out that this government, in a five months period in 1934-35, had paid a full grant of \$275,000.

Colonel Kidd, mindful of the reduction suffered by Queen's University, challenged Dr. Duncan's suggestion that the members were satisfied with the policy. "The present government," he said, "is not playing fair with the universities of this province."

MAY INCREASE BETTING TAX

Hepburn Holds Revenue Is Better Obtained Through Levy Than by Per Diem Impost on Race Tracks

CITES EXPERIENCE

Premier Hepburn, as treasurer of Ontario, yesterday declared his conviction before the Legislature that race track revenue was better obtained by a tax on betting than on a per diem tax on tracks. He indicated also that if a heavier tax were ordered it would be on betting.

Mr. Hepburn discussed the policy in brief comment on the second reading of the Race Tracks Tax Act, a measure which was introduced to clarify previous legislation. He revealed that at one time there was a \$5,000 per diem tax on tracks and that W. E. Raney,

former attorney-general, had increased it to \$10,000.

The tax, he claimed, was considered excessive by the succeeding government and it was reduced until, at the time he was first elected head of the government in July, 1934, it was down to \$500. At that time, he said, the depression had cut sharply into race track attendance and, following a petition from track owners, and a study of the question with treasury officials, it was decided to reduce it again to the nominal fee of \$1 per diem.

"The big contribution is the 5 per cent levy on all betting," said the Premier, pointing out that two tracks in 1934 had not opened for the spring meeting, because of the per diem tax, and that, therefore, the betting tax revenue had been lost to the province. He said the highest return from the tracks since 1933 was made in 1937, when \$669,000 was obtained.

Answering W. J. Stewart (Cons., Toronto-Parkdale), the Premier said one track was in default on the per diem rate since prior to 1934 and that, as a matter of fact, his government received a cheque from the owner which "bounced."

"We could have closed the track when the cheque bounced, but by allowing it to remain open for the remainder of the two days of the program we received more money than if we had closed it," he said.

REFORESTATION SURVEY ASKED

The Ontario Legislature yesterday approved of a motion by Col. T. L. Kennedy (Cons., Peel) asking the Department of Lands and Forests to map the watersheds and all points in the counties where forests should be preserved or planted in the interest of a long-term policy of reforestation.

Colonel Kennedy suggested the continuation of farming in Ontario was dependent on the preservation of forests as moisture-holding properties and ones which at the same time would help to prevent erosion.

The former Minister of Agriculture said there were 650,000 acres of farm land in the province not suitable for agriculture, and claimed the mapping could be done by department woodsmen, with little cost to the province.