

HEPBURN RAPS PROTEST MARCH OF STUDENTS

**Charges 'Agitators' Acted
for Political Motives, and
Claims Government Is
Generous to Universities**

CAN ADJUST AMOUNT

Riled by student demonstrations against the government's policy of reducing university grants for the 1939-40 fiscal year, Premier Hepburn revealed yesterday before the Legislature that a "beneficent government grant system" making higher education as cheap as possible had lured to Ontario universities 1,454 pupils from beyond the province's boundaries.

Sternly rebuking students of the University of Western Ontario for their "obviously political" demonstration of protest against grant reductions, the Premier pointed out that 244 students at that college were not even residents of Canada, and that more than 300 out of a total registration of some 2,300 came from points outside Ontario. Only twenty-seven United States medical students out of all that number, he said, paid any extra fees for the privilege of studying in Ontario.

Department enrolment records, he said, showed that the majority of the students from the United States attending Western were enrolled at Assumption College, Windsor, an affiliate of the London University.

Other Ontario colleges showed a similar situation, Mr. Hepburn declared. At the University of Toronto, out of 804 non-resident students, 184 were from across the line and eighty-eight from countries other than Canada and the United States. Queen's University at Kingston had a total of 360 non-resident students. They all came to Ontario, he charged, to obtain lower fees at the expense of this province.

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While taking full cognizance of the fact that standards of the Ontario universities were factors in the non-resident enrolment, the Premier said it was his belief, and the belief of his Ministers, that Ontario's taxpayers were being called on to subsidize scores of American students who were flocking to the province's universities to take advantage of fees which were attractively low as compared with those of universities of equal standing across the line.

Moreover, said the Premier, as a general rule the non-resident fees were not higher than those for residents, and, in turning directly to the issue raised by the Western demonstrations, he warned them that if they did not like the \$260,000 which is to be paid from the provincial treasury to that institution, the province could find other ways and means of spending the money.

"We can quite easily adjust this amount," he said. "I am mindful there is another university in Western Ontario, McMaster University in Hamilton, which has never asked nor never received a dollar from the government."

While he did not indicate that the government would press universities to change their fees policy, the Premier declared he did believe non-resident pupils should pay more than the residents. Possibility of some action in this line was hinted in his statement that he was glad the student agitation "has brought this thing to a head."

"I want to protest against the activities of a lot of agitators at the University of Western Ontario," said the Premier in opening the subject. "Their purpose is obviously political when I look at the names of the ringleaders. Figures indicate that this government has been more than generous in its grants to the universities."

He then gave a summary of the government grants since 1935-36 up to 1938-39. They were: University of Toronto—\$1,677,068; \$1,695,318; \$1,854,318 and \$1,908,663. Western — \$250,000; \$250,000; \$285,000 and \$285,000. Queen's—\$250,000; \$250,000; \$275,000 and \$275,000.

INTEND OTTAWA COLLECT TAX

At the earliest possible date, it is understood, the Hepburn Government will endeavor to make some arrangement with the Dominion Government to collect the Ontario Corporations tax, in the same way it now collects the provincial income tax.

Premier Hepburn revealed this objective in the Legislature yesterday when his revised Corporations Tax Act passed committee of the House. "If we can get our act to conform to the Dominion law," said he, "we will probably approach the Dominion and see if we can make some agreement with them to collect our tax."

The saving that would result from eventual elimination of the corporations tax branch at Queen's Park, with its heavy staffing, and collecting and enforcement machinery now duplicated by Ottawa, would, it is reported, aggregate between \$100,000 and \$150,000 annually.