

Drew Demands Probe Of Lands, Forests Branch

Immediate investigation by a special committee of the Legislature of all matters pertaining to the administration, licensing, sale, supervision and conservation of natural resources by Hon. Peter Heenan's Lands and Forests Department is being demanded by Colonel George A. Drew, K.C., and the Conservative Opposition.

Formal notice of a resolution that would require the setting up of such an inquiry body was given by the Opposition yesterday. Debate on it may take place tomorrow afternoon.

Colonel Drew declined to discuss the extent to which he desires to probe the Heenan administration, but it was reported that the Abitibi reorganization, the Lake Sulphite collapse, and contracts with Pulpwood Supply Company are matters of primary concern with him at the present time. On several occasions to date this session he has intimated the intention of making the present government's timber policies the target of attack. Yesterday's resolution notification is said to be the first shot of that attack.

The Opposition also requested yesterday the immediate convening of the public accounts committee of the House. Premier Hepburn promptly met the request, and the committee will meet for purposes of organization at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. There is no indication available of the line the Opposition will take before this committee. Road payments are reported, however, among items likely to be brought under scrutiny. The Opposition discussed the situation at a noon caucus.

BILL STRESSES UNION RIGHTS

Legislation which would legalize collective bargaining and furnish employees with the free right to join a union of their choice was brought down to the Ontario Legislature yesterday by David A. Croll, former Minister of Welfare and Municipal Affairs in the Hepburn Government.

The legislation which is entitled "Freedom of Trade Union Association Act" is similar in scope and purpose, Mr. Croll explained, to legislation already adopted in other provinces. It would—among other things—make it "unlawful" for any employer to seek to prevent his employees from seeking to join a trade union.

Where "intimidation or threat" might be used to restrain an employee the employer would be liable, under the legislation, to a fine not exceeding \$100 or a jail term not exceeding thirty days, in the case of an individual. In the case of a corporation the penalty proposed is a fine not exceeding \$1,000, with the responsible officers held personally liable for its payment.

Mr. Croll also re-introduced his rejected Marriage Bill of the 1938 session. It would compel all applicants for marriage licenses to first produce certificates of freedom from social disease.

Making his first appearance in the House since his serious illness, Hon. W. L. Houck, vice-chairman of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, introduced several bills. One would authorize the commission to return to the municipal corporation of the City of Guelph the control and operation of the Guelph street railway. This line has been operated by Hydro since 1920. Another bill would apply the same principle of rural line bonusing to the Commission's Northern Ontario properties that applies throughout its various systems in old Ontario.

WOULD AMEND NOISE BY-LAW

Course of the Toronto legislation seeking validation of the anti-noise by-law was promised further opposition in the Legislature yesterday when J. J. Glass (Lib., St. Andrew) served notice he would propose an amendment when the bill appeared before the committee of the whole House.

The Toronto member opposed unsuccessfully that section of the by-law which would require authority of the police commission to employ loudspeakers at political meetings and celebrations of a similar nature, when the bill was before the private bills committee.

He indicated his amendment would be directed at the same clause. In committee, he charged the commission had been known to be arbitrary in its rulings and held the permit authority should rest with a body responsible to the people, such as the board of control.