

Toronto Professors Censured in Legislature; Hepburn Demands Curb

Blunt warning was issued yesterday by Premier Hepburn that unless university authorities in this province take sufficient disciplinary action to curb now and for all time the sedition-smacking utterances of certain of their professors, the government—backed, as he expects it to be, by a solid Legislature—would employ such legislative means as may be necessary to deal adequately with the situation.

Charging Prof. Frank Underhill of University College and Prof. G. M. A. Grube of Trinity College with "hurling insults at the British Empire," the Prime Minister agreed with Opposition Leader George A. Drew that the time had come to call a halt to such performances. He dramatically declared that unless the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto and Provost Cosgrave of Trinity saw fit to deal with the offenders, the government would step in.

Labelling the two professors as "rats who are trying to scuttle our ship of state," Colonel Fred Fraser Hunter, member for the St. Patrick riding in which the university is located, pressed for immediate action. He introduced a resolution which, if adopted, would have required the House to demand the dismissal of the two men from the posts they now hold, with no chance of further university employment.

"Matter Won't Rest."

However, in the face of counsel from Mr. Hepburn, Colonel Drew and Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, that the respective authorities with direct control over the pair should first be given a chance to act, the fiery Colonel consented to the Premier's adjournment of the suddenly precipitated, quite brief, but electrifying debate on the issue.

"Rest assured, however," said Mr. Hepburn, "that I am not content to let this matter rest here. If the proper authorities do not do something to bring these men into line—do not do something to them for the way they've acted—then I shall consult with the law officers of the House, and with the honorable Leader of the Opposition, and devise some means of dealing with them—some means, I'm confident, that will meet with the approval of every loyal member of this House."

The Prime Minister warmly referred to Professor Grube on several occasions as "this foreigner," and when Colonel Drew, injecting Professor Underhill's name into the controversy, credited the latter with stating, in effect, that the poppies which blew in Flanders Fields no longer had any interest for the people of Canada, the Premier thumped his desk indignantly and cried: "Shame! Shame!"

To deprecation of the seeming indifference, so far, of the university authorities to the "seditious talk" of the two employees, Mr. Hepburn added the allegation that the present large-scale antipathy of Australian and New Zealand people to Canada was due in the main to the speeches and writings and radio suggestions of a bunch of Canadian professors who visited these far-flung parts of the Empire some months ago and left the impression that Canada was anxious to "break away" from the Motherland.

Asks Courageous Action.

Yesterday's ultimatum to both professors and controlling authorities alike developed when the Minister of Education, in condemning the Grube outburst of last week, explained that he was on the staff of Trinity College, and that the University of Toronto governors had no direct supervision over him. Later, Mr. Hepburn suggested one possible way of dealing with this particular professor—the revoking of Trinity College's federation with the university. In any event, said he, he was not going to let Grube speak as disparagingly of the Empire as he had done and get away with it.

From Colonel Drew, who introduced the Underhill angle, the House heard a high-planned appeal for courageous dealing with the difficult situation as Professor Grube and Professor Underhill, by their frequent utterances, were engendering in Canada. "In all the schools of this province," said he, "what the children learn is vital to the survival of the nation." Surely we have the right to say that those who teach our youth shall further the cause of democracy and personal freedom. I don't suggest that the Minister of Education can devise some plan which will work. None of us could do that on very short notice. But the time has come for us to agree that in all the schools of this province those who teach shall teach what we know as British democracy and not assist subversive elements which might destroy our institutions."

By way of climax to the incident, Mr. Hepburn read a telegram from the Newmarket Lions Club, which urged that university grants be further reduced by the province "until the governing body weeds out men who parade themselves before the public as traitors to the public, and who poison the minds of Ontario's finest young men and women."

Not Benefited by Grant.

Dr. Simpson, in his statement, reminded the House the matter was complicated by reason of the fact that Trinity College was an affiliated college of the University of Toronto and did not benefit directly by the province's grant to the university.

"In my estimation," he continued, "the members of the staff of our great university, as well as those of our affiliated colleges, should be reminded that, in making speeches, they should do so with a sense of responsibility to the individual institution with which they are connected.

"I made an effort to get in touch with Principal Cosgrave, but was unable to do so. But I am confident that Principal Cosgrave and members of the board will not agree with and will not condone a statement such as is attributed to Professor Grube."

This, he held, was particularly so at a time when war, perhaps, was not far distant and when the democracies were facing a crisis. "It is most unfortunate," added the minister, "that a professor in one of our universities should have had the audacity to make such a statement as he made the other day."

Colonel Drew declared his agreement with Dr. Simpson's statement and maintained the incident presented an opportunity "to devise some new course in matters of this kind."

He claimed that the question of Professor Grube being on the staff of a university which might or might not obtain a provincial grant did not enter the issue. Nor was it a question of flag waving. But, he emphasized, it was a question of the survival of those institutions which we choose to call British and the necessity of instilling in the minds of young people who are about to hold responsibility the importance of safeguarding them.

Colonel Drew then referred to Professor Underhill's statement, which, he said, was taken from the book, "Canada Looks Abroad," writ-

ten by R. A. MacKay and E. B. Rogers.

"It is true," he said, "these words were not spoken in relation to the immediate crisis. But, as the Minister of Education has said, a professor does not divorce himself from his duties as a professor when he goes into the public arena, whether it is for the C.C.F., the Liberals or the Conservatives.

"These institutions in Canada are or should be the breeding places of British democracy and we should insist that that form of government should be taught there."

The Conservative Leader then read: "We must, therefore, make it clear to the world, and especially to Great Britain, that the poppies blooming in Flanders Fields have no further interest for us—"

"Shame," declared Premier Hepburn.

"Premier Hepburn has properly said 'Shame,' continued Colonel Drew, as he pointed out that in making the statement, Professor Underhill was transgressing on the very principles of freedom for which men had died in the Great War.

He continued to quote: "We must fortify ourselves against the allurements of a British war for democracy and freedom and parliamentary institutions, and against the allurements of a league war for peace and international order. And when propagandists combine the two appeals to us by urging us to join in organizing 'the peace world,' to which all British nations already belong, the simplest answer is to thumb our noses at them."

Time for Action.

"Now," said Colonel Drew, "the time has come to stop and to stop permanently statements of that kind by a man who either in or out of the educational institution is speaking to the public as a member of that institution."

"Is he still a professor?" asked Attorney-General Conant.

Colonel Drew said he was, and added that the words spoken were voiced in the face of an urgent demand that the British nations should stand together to preserve democracy.

He said there was not and should not be thought of introducing the methods of a dictator into the country. At the same time, the democratic nations, he insisted, could take a leaf out of the dictators' book by realizing that the future of their countries lay in the hands of youth and that the beliefs of youth would determine the future of democracy.

"We must wake up," said Colonel Drew as he declared that the world which was represented in the parliamentary institutions with which the House was surrounded, "is tumbling before our eyes. The only thing that can save freedom in this country is the strong spirit of our young people.

"I believe that peace, sanity and free institutions can be preserved only by the united action of the democratic countries. I will co-operate with anything you can do to assure, not only in the universities, but in all institutions of this prov-