

# HEPBURN DUBS HENRY CHARGES 'JUST TWADDLE'

**Clash Occurs When Former Premier Voices Attack Upon Government for 'Manoeuvring for Surplus'**

**COULD NOT GIVE PROOF**

Charges of former Premier Henry that the present Government had done all sorts of manoeuvring to produce a surplus for the last fiscal year—even to the extent of offering a liberal discount on succession duties payments—were branded in the Legislature yesterday by Premier Hepburn as "just twaddle," and probably born of "attending some old ladies' sewing circle."

Mr. Henry—in the first direct clash with his former adversary since the present session opened—was challenged by the Premier to back his statements up with names and proof, but he said he was unable to, although he was sure of the accuracy of his information.

"Give us your information and we will check on it," said Mr. Hepburn. "We can't check on it unless we have the facts."

"I can't give you the information —," Mr. Henry said.

**"Common Gossip."**

"Either give it or you'll have to back up on your charges," the Premier said.

"It's common gossip on the street," said Mr. Henry.

"Just as I thought," snapped the Premier. "The honorable member for East York has probably been attending some old ladies' sewing circle. To make the charges he has made and refuse to substantiate them is unbecoming of an ex-Prime Minister of this province."

"Not any more unbecoming than the reference of the Prime Minister to Mr. Massey (Denton Massey) when he called him a 'Bible teacher' here this afternoon," retorted Mr. Henry.

"Did you ever hear any of his Bible teachings?" asked the Premier.

"I'm not saying," said Mr. Henry.

A further charge of Mr. Henry's was to the effect that an applicant for old age pension had been approved on Feb. 1, but had not got her cheque until March 31. The cheque dated April 1 indicated, said he, the lengths to which the Government was going to maintain a balanced budget.

The Premier demanded the woman's name, but Mr. Henry said he couldn't give it.

"As I thought," observed Mr. Hepburn.

The stormy incident arose out of the Premier's pronouncement that there were not some 200,000 applications for gas tax rebate awaiting approval and payment when the fiscal year ended on March 31 (as Hon. Leopold Macaulay had charged last week), but 5,000. These, he said, would be dealt with as rapidly as possible, and he could assure the House they would be charged to the past year. In fact, said he, every dollar of expenditure properly chargeable to any one year was charged by the present Government to that year, and not held over as had been the practice with previous administrations.

# Hepburn Who Sold Property No Relation, Premier Declares

Assurance was given the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Premier Hepburn that Robert M. Hepburn from whom property was purchased by the government to accommodate the new provincial mental hospital in Elgin County was "no blood relation."

"In fact," said the Premier, "he is one of the most ardent Conservatives in the province, and he is so bitter about it that in the last eight years, except for formal conversations on the telephone, he has not spoken to me."

Mr. Hepburn said that Robert M. Hepburn had asked \$33,000 for his land, but Queen's Park valuers had considered the price "far too high." The matter had gone to arbitration with the result that it was acquired "for only \$18,800."

The Premier said he made his observation because he knew that when an untruth got abroad it

was very difficult "for the truth to catch up with it."

Earlier in the day, before the Public Accounts Committee, Opposition Leader Drew moved that R. A. McAllister, deputy minister of public works, and Dr. W. Davey Smith, superintendent of the Elgin hospital, and former M.L.A. for Dufferin-Simcoe, be subpoenaed to give evidence regarding various expenditure items in connection with the institution. The probe resulting, will start next Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, and may last several days.

Some doubt was raised yesterday as to whether Dr. Smith had actually been appointed superintendent of the hospital. Colonel Drew said that every one knew he had been in charge of the place whether his announced appointment had been ratified or not. Hon. Colin Campbell, minister of public works, declared that he had "just started this week."

"Well, bring him here," said Hon. Leopold Macaulay, "and we'll find out what he's been drawing pay for."

## Will Be Active, Won't Tell How

Premier Hepburn muddied the federal Liberal political waters a bit more yesterday when he confessed to the Legislature that he might take "a very active part" in the next Dominion election.

The confession developed when in referring to a recent Globe and Mail prediction that the "Hepburn machine" would be behind the Conservative candidature of Syl Apps in Brant, the Prime Minister said: "Another Queen's Park rumor. I'm not going to say how I'll vote in the next federal election."