

Applause From Gallery Brings Ejection Threat

Gallery spectators who applauded Col. George A. Drew's stern rebuke to Premier Hepburn, following a brief but bitter verbal exchange, were threatened with ejection from the Legislature by Speaker James H. Clark last night, after the Premier had accused Colonel Drew of "scattering friends of his through the gallery."

The salvo of applause which shot Premier Hepburn to his feet with the accusation followed the Conservative Leader's biting condemnation of the Premier for charging him with "taking time off from his work to make a little money on the side."

Colonel Drew was reading from an article written by him and published by a Canadian magazine in 1933 when he was Securities Com-

missioner for Ontario. When he had concluded reading, he named the publication in which it had appeared and offered to send a copy over to the government side of the House.

"Were you paid for that article?" asked Hon. Colin Campbell, Minister of Public Works.

"I believe I was," replied Colonel Drew.

"Oh, making a little money on the side," retorted the Premier.

"I think," said the Opposition Leader, "that is probably a remark you will regret."

"The point is this," Mr. Hepburn pressed. "The honorable member was a full-time employee of the government and was taking time

off his work to make money on the side."

"And the point I want to make is this," replied Colonel Drew. "I wasn't taking time off my work and I wasn't taking time off anything else. I was simply exercising the right that is every one's, to use my spare time at night for the consideration of public affairs—something that other members of this House might profitably do."

The chamber, tensely silent during the duel of words, broke into an uproar as Conservative members pounded their desks, and spectators in the Speaker's gallery joined in the applause.

The Premier leaped to his feet, white with anger.

"Loud applause from the gallery is not permissible," he shouted above the din. "It is quite obvious that the member has scattered friends of his throughout the gallery."

"You can't take it," shouted Leopold Macaulay (Con., South York). "You weren't objecting to applause three years ago."

The Speaker ordered that no more applause would be tolerated, and that offenders would be ejected from the House.

"I may point out," said Colonel Drew, when order had been restored, "that was one of those remarks that cause applause of that kind. The Premier doesn't realize the contempt in which such remarks are held. I have such friends scattered, not only through the gallery, but throughout the entire province."

"It is most unfortunate that he didn't have as many friends in his own constituency during the last election," taunted the Premier.

"The same spirit, expressing itself through the mouth of the same speaker," taunted the Conservative Leader. "The Premier has really shown his true colors in this House tonight. The Premier has made the sort of remarks which used to characterize his conduct in the House, but which, I am glad to say, have not been so much in evidence recently."

The Conservative Leader urged

the government to consider the necessity of giving greater protection to the investing public through the Companies Act by providing stricter regulations. The Securities Act, he maintained, was only an expedient.

As proof of his contention that he had held a similar view for many years, he read excerpts from the article he had written in October, 1933. In it then, as now, he said, he had maintained that changes in company law were necessary to provide proper control over corporations.

Colonel Drew started to discuss the building of the new mental hospital at St. Thomas, questioning during a time of retrenchment the construction of so costly a hospital when less costly alternative plans were before the Premier, but he had barely started before Mr. Hepburn checked him on a matter of procedure.

Surely, asserted the Premier, the Opposition Leader was aware that when a matter was before a legislature committee of inquiry, it could not be discussed in the House. Colonel Drew claimed that the Premier had himself brought forward the question during the afternoon sitting.

Mr. Hepburn, in reply, said that, during the afternoon, he had discussed with his colleagues the question of bringing to the attention of Dr. Harold Welsh (Con., East Hastings) that he was transgressing the rules of the House by referring to the hospital, and in the end the Premier pointed out that he was not so concerned about strict adherence to the rules. Colonel Drew could proceed, out of order though he might be, if he had the consent of the Speaker.

"He talks so much about parliamentary procedure and sets himself up as such an authority," the Premier shot at the Conservative Leader.