

FEDERAL ACT FOR JOBLESS IS PREDICTED

**Hepburn Is Sure Ottawa
Will Enact Insurance
Before Daring to Face
Electors in Next Vote**

PASS ENABLING BILL

The Dominion Government will pass an unemployment insurance bill "before it dares to face the people of Ontario and the rest of Canada in another election," in the opinion of Premier Hepburn expressed before the Ontario Legislature last night. The Premier spoke as the House gave second reading to a bill enabling the province to participate in the benefits of any federal unemployment insurance measure.

Leopold Macaulay described the government's efforts year after year to implement unemployment insurance as "a Punch and Judy show." Hon. N. O. Hipel, who sponsored the enabling legislation, was the third Labor minister in three years to promise the same thing, said Mr. Macaulay.

Mr. Hipel said that the government also had in reserve a measure for provincial unemployment insurance, in case the federal measure failed to go through. He showed a typed copy of the tentative measure and promised that printed copies would be presented to all members at least six months before the next Legislature session so they could study it at their leisure.

"This is the same old pantomime year after year," commented Mr. Macaulay. "I'll admit we've had a look at the cover of a bill after three years of promises, but apparently we're not even going to see what's inside it until after the House rises. What I object to is this mumbling of the same old Mohammedan formula year after year, which means no more than if the government read a chapter out of the Koran."

Mr. Macaulay declared that only a week ago the Federal Labor Minister had said there would be no insurance act at the present session. If Mr. Hipel didn't know that, he should resign as Minister of Labor, said Mr. Macaulay, claiming that the record of Mr. Rogers' statement was in Hansard.

"Mr. Rogers said that a national unemployment insurance scheme would be introduced when the consent of all the provinces was obtained," Mr. Hipel replied.

"But he knows he will never get the consent of Quebec," countered Mr. Macaulay.

The only hindrance to a Federal scheme up to now had been constitutional difficulties, said the Premier. "We agreed two years ago to waive provincial rights in this field, because it was much better for the Dominion Government to bring down this kind of legislation," he added.

Sees Federal Election.

"I strongly suspect that there will be a Federal election this year and strange things have been known to happen on the eve of an election," Mr. Hepburn said. He believed there was time for an unemployment insurance bill to be introduced and passed at Ottawa.

"One of the things I discussed with the governments of Australia and New Zealand," the Premier continued, "was unemployment insurance. I found that they passed a measure a year ago, but it has never been given Royal assent. They find that neither the employee nor the employer, the municipality nor the state, wants to contribute. It would be a terrible thing if we in this province had to pay the entire shot for our unemployment insurance while we still were contributing approximately 50 per cent of the relief costs handled through the Federal administration."

Mr. Hepburn said he had decided that the best course here was to allow the Federal Government to go ahead with an insurance plan while the province had as an alternative an act of its own under advisement.

Col. George A. Drew observed that the best way to obtain federal unemployment insurance was for the Hepburn Government to keep its own bill "out of the picture."

"All we want here is the enabling legislation now before the House," he said. "We want a federal scheme."

The surest means of defeating that purpose was to lead Ottawa to believe that Ontario was prepared to bring in a bill of its own. What was more, he said, Queen's Park should be extremely cautious in passing the enabling bill and all other legislation to ensure that special conditions were not set up imposing difficulties on Ontario industry and further difficulties on labor itself.

A. W. Roebuck (Lib., Toronto-Bellwoods) supported the bill and said "unemployment insurance is a proper subject for Dominion legislation and is almost beyond the practical competence of a provincial body."