

Government Won't Aid Sewage Plant Project, Nixon Warns Toronto

Undaunted by Legislature's Attitude, Board of Control Will Present Request to Premier Hepburn

SEE ONTARIO MENACE

Regardless of the announcement credited to the Ontario Provincial Secretary, that Queen's Park would refuse to contribute toward the cost of a new sewage disposal plant for Toronto, Board of Control members will seek an appointment this week with Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn and present the city's request for financial assistance.

The controllers expressed resentment last night that Hon. Harry Nixon had made such an announcement to the Legislature before the city had even been granted an opportunity to ask for Ontario Government aid.

Health Menaced.

The health of the province is being menaced because of the millions of gallons of partially-treated sewage now being dumped daily into Lake Ontario, Controller Fred Hamilton contended. In view of this situation, he said, the provincial government should share the cost of building a new sewage disposal plant in this city.

"I'm very disappointed to learn of the provincial secretary's announcement," he added. "But, at the same time, I realized that the government has its own financial difficulties to contend with. Even though Mr. Nixon made the announcement, he is not the head of the government and I feel that the Board of Control should still place its request before Premier Hepburn."

Controller Dr. F. J. Conboy said the Provincial Secretary was "quite correct" in pointing out that three-quarters of the cities in Ontario did not have adequate sewage disposal plants. And the municipalities would never be able to have adequate plants, he maintained, if they were forced to shoulder the entire cost alone.

Propose Review Board.

Announcement that the Board of Control will present to City Council next Monday a proposal for the appointment of a board of review to further investigate the matter of Toronto's sewage disposal was made yesterday by Controller J. D. McNish in an address to the Danforth Business Men's Association (west section) in St. Barnabas Hall.

Controller McNish declared the proposed board would consist of three qualified engineers and rep-

No Item in Estimates, Provincial Secretary Declares in Barring Discussion in Health Estimates

ROEBUCK IS IN FAVOR

The Ontario Government is not going to contribute public money toward the construction of a sewage disposal plant for Toronto, Hon. Harry C. Nixon, provincial secretary, flatly informed the Legislature yesterday when he barred from discussion the plant question in consideration of Health Department estimates.

"There is no item in the estimates about it and there won't be while I am a member of this Government," he said.

"Why," argued William Duckworth (Cons., Dovercourt), "Toronto pays the largest proportion of the province's income tax."

"Why," echoed the provincial secretary, "your city of Toronto would be nothing if it were not for the rest of the province."

Arthur W. Roebuck (Lib., Bellwoods) first asked for provincial support and was followed by J. J. Glass (Lib., St. Andrew), and W. J. Stewart (Cons., Parkdale). The Dominion, said Mr. Roebuck, had offered to contribute 40 per cent of the labor costs providing the province contributed half. He estimated the province's share would be \$2,000,000.

Construction of the plant would provide, he said, "tremendous protection to the health of the province" and would materially reduce relief contributions. He also argued that Toronto provided a heavy contribution to the federal and provincial coffers.

Mr. Nixon declared three-quarters of the cities in Ontario did not have adequate sewage disposal plants and that Brantford did not have one at all.

"If the federal government wants to deal with it, all right. But it is not the policy of this government," he said.

representatives of the Federal and Ontario Governments.

"This board," he said, "will consider the different methods of sewage disposal and present a report, and council will then be able to present the best method to the public to vote on next election day.

"Only the most close observation of Toronto's drinking water has made it possible for us to go on with this obsolete sewage disposal without running into an epidemic directly caused by poor disposal," he said.