

FEAR PEOPLE NOT AROUSED TO TOP PITCH

Hepburn, Drew Say
Realization War to
Be Grim Is Needed

SLAP OTTAWA

Admittedly pledged to the maximum co-operation in the prosecution of Ontario's war effort, Premier Hepburn and Opposition Leader Drew, at the formal opening of the Legislature yesterday, both regretted that the Canadian people as a whole did not appear to be taking the "life-and-death struggle" seriously enough, and indirectly implied that the Ottawa leadership of Right Hon. Mackenzie King was responsible for this lack of public consciousness.

"So far as the leader of the Canadian Government is concerned," declared Mr. Hepburn, "I have not yet been able to provoke him into an open quarrel, although I have tried to do so with great dexterity on frequent occasions."

"Dropped Umbrella."

"My only regret is that the Premier has not succeeded in arousing the Prime Minister of Canada," Colonel Drew subsequently commented upon the Premier's admission, "and I can only wish him better luck next time."

Premier Chamberlain could under no circumstances be considered "a sabre-rattler," said Mr. Hepburn, and yet he had "dropped his umbrella" in the face of the present emergency, as every one realized. The war ahead would be "a long and brutal one," and every possible co-operation between Canada and the Empire was essential, he suggested, to the victory that Britishers desired and demanded.

Colonel Drew observed that the time had arrived "for vigorous action and plain speaking." The question of who was right and who was wrong in the recent Cabinet shake-up in Britain did not concern Ontario, he said.

"But what does concern us," he added, "is that the press in Great Britain does not feel restrained to criticize where it feels criticism is due."

In the coming spring, but three months away—as Lord Lothian, British Ambassador to Washington, had so recently warned—Germany, he believed, would launch an attack by land and sea and air, "in the most terrific military adventure the world has ever seen."

"I, for one," he stressed, "will not apologize at any time this session for urging, where responsibility is

placed, that they awake to the danger of an attack which may threaten not only this country but civilization itself. I do urge that the people realize that it is not patriotic to be silent in the face of incompetence."

Much remained to be done in Canada, he said, and every one had to do his part in the present crisis.

The incident developed when Mr. Hepburn rose for the primary purpose of paying tribute to uniformed Private David Croll of the Essex Scottish, a former Cabinet colleague, on three-day leave from his unit to participate in the opening deliberations of the present session. "May God protect him in his fight for King and country," said the Premier, and linked with him in the plea Lieutenant Colin A. Campbell, Minister of Public Works. Unable to attend because of a severe attack of influenza, Lieutenant Campbell wrote his regrets to the Assembly from a sickbed in Grace Hospital.

The Premier and the Opposition Leader agreed that—as Prime Minister Chamberlain had indicated—"dark days lie ahead," and that the two present enlistments from the Legislature membership represented but the beginning of constant inroads. It would not be very long, the Premier feared, before the House membership would lose many more familiar faces. Private Croll's applauded claim that he was doing his duty simply as he saw it drew from Colonel Drew subsequently the remark that everything possible should be done by the military authorities to ensure that men endeavoring to enlist not be kept waiting in long and tiring queues before recruiting stations, as had been instanced in the past.

Comes as Surprise.

Injection of the matter of Canada's war effort into the Legislature scene came as a complete surprise. There was nothing pre-arranged about it, the two leaders said afterward. Col. Fred Fraser Hunter, St. Patrick, speaking over a breastful of war decorations and medals, climaxed the brief but significant debate in this regard by emphasizing that every man would have some role to play in the struggle before it ended, and that in a few days' time (he has, at 62, just passed his medical tests A-1) he hoped to take his place, "in some minor capacity," alongside Soldiers Croll and Campbell.

There was little fuss to the 15-minute formal opening conducted by Hon. Albert Matthews, the Lieutenant-Governor, and his staff. The long-traditional guard of honor was reviewed by the Vice-Regal party at the front entrance of the Parliament Buildings, but saluting guns—due to wartime restrictions—were conspicuously absent. The Speech from the Throne, longer than customary, and stressing, in particular, the war effort moves of the Province since last September, was presented by Mr. Matthews to an audience of legislators and faithful galleryites.

The scene was a particularly pleasing one, inasmuch as the Chamber has been freshly recarpeted in rose plush, and a Royal blue—remindful of their Majesties' visit of last May—has been added to the galleries' pews. There were no hitches, and the moment the Vice-Regal party had quit the place, Premier Hepburn and his Ministers had thrown the business of their first full wartime session into first gear. Oddly enough, the first bit of legislation given first reading—introduced by Attorney-General Conant—will, when enacted, exempt all ranks of the Air Force from jury duty. Land and sea forces of Canada are now similarly exempt-

ed. A second bill, which in itself would indicate that war or no war, hard times are still here, extended for another year the terms of the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Act. A throw-back to more peaceful and happier moments was reflected in the reading by Speaker James H. Clark of King George's reply to the message of good-will presented him by the Province when in Toronto last spring.

No Capital Expenditures.

"Since the outbreak of the war my Ministers have pursued a vigorous policy, within the scope permitted to them by the British North America Act," the Lieutenant-Governor read to the House. "Immediate steps were taken to secure adequate finances which, due to a succession of balanced budgets, were immediately available at a favorable rate of interest. A policy of the strictest economy was laid down and a virtual holiday on capital expenditure was declared. Except where absolutely essential, capital commitments will be reserved for the postwar period, when they will be most needed. The Province placed immediately at the disposal of the Dominion Government all its resources. The new hospital at St. Thomas has been turned over to the Royal Canadian Air Force, and Provincial highway engineers and the forestry patrol service have been engaged on Dominion projects. I am particularly proud of the way in which Ontario once again demonstrated its loyalty. Men enlisting overtaxed the capacity of the recruiting stations, and contributions to the Canadian Red Cross Society exceeded the amount asked for.

"It is apparent that economic warfare will be a vital factor in the present conflict, and it is gratifying

to know that the field crops in Ontario during the past year were above normal, with a consequent increase of live stock on the farms. A recent agreement calls for the delivery of 5,000,000 pounds of Canadian bacon weekly to the British Government, and it is confidently expected that Ontario production will be increased to supply half of this total. With this end in view the Department of Agriculture is endeavoring to secure a maximum crop of feed grains. At present we have an ample supply of excellent seed grain which, with better methods of cultivation, should produce an increased yield per acre. There has been a much greater demand recently for assistance in combating animal diseases, and the willingness of stock owners to co-operate is a promising feature of the broader plans now being laid. A better understanding has also developed between organized fruit producers and processors.

War Committee Set Up.

"In the industrial field a special committee has been set up within the Department of Labor, to co-operate with employers engaged in the manufacture of war materials. All applications for overtime permits are dealt with by the committee and, in many instances, employers have been persuaded to employ a second and even a third shift, with the result that more people have been put to work and relief rolls reduced. All civilian employees required in Ontario by the Department of National Defense will be obtained through our employment service and close contact is being maintained with all firms manufacturing war supplies, in an effort to provide them with the skilled labor that is needed. In this connection the training schools that have been established for aircraft mechanics, welders and machine shop work will be of particular value. A marked improvement in