

JANUARY 19

Drew Sacrificed Right As Critic, Says Lamport

Conservative Leader Drew, by attacking the Bren gun contract with "charges that were never proved, has sacrificed any right which he may have had to criticize Canada's war effort," Allan Lamport, Liberal member for St. David, Toronto, declared yesterday in the Legislature.

Mr. Lamport's charge fell within fifteen minutes of the time that he, with twenty-five other Liberal members, had backed the Hepburn-sponsored motion which attributed to Ottawa a lack of vigor in prosecuting Canada's war effort. The Toronto member rose to speak when orders of the day and the sitting proper was called shortly after 5 p.m. The previous two hours were taken up with argument leading to the passage of the resolution.

Just as the speaker was launching into his attack against Colonel Drew, the Conservative Leader was rising to leave the Chamber. Mr. Lamport warned him that his next remarks would be directed at him, but Colonel Drew proceeded and did not return for several minutes.

Mr. Lamport argued that the Bren inquiry had retarded the letting of further munitions contracts and that "many more British factories of that nature would have been here now had it not been for his ridiculous action. And he can take the blame for stopping Canada's only and first preparation for war effort of that time."

Agrees With Remarks.

At the same time, he said, he concurred in all Colonel Drew said in his speech on the war efforts. "I concur in all he says," claimed Mr. Lamport, "but he paid no attention to the needs of this Province in his speech."

Himself a former alderman, he believed there was merit in the proposal to place a moratorium on civic elections for two years. In Toronto, he said, it cost \$67,000 to elect a council and only \$60,000 to pay it "and no sooner do they get their budget worked out than they have to start preparing for another election."

Mr. Lamport warned civic governments that they must pare their estimates. Money has to be raised for the prosecution of the war in large sums. "During the last war, in 1915," he said, "an act was passed that compelled the municipalities to raise one mill on the dollar of assessment for war purposes and to turn it over to the Provincial Treasury. Ontario is now giving one and one-half mills to the municipalities. This might be cut. There is certainly every reason to believe it will be."

Mr. Lamport, citing resolutions passed by the Children's Aid Society and associated bodies relating to the mentally unfit, strongly urged legislative action to provide for sterilization. "Surely this will be considered this session and at this time when we find further proof of the need of strong bodies."