

TAUNT FLUNG AT ROEBUCK BY HEPBURN

Old Feud Renewed
in House; Publisher
Also Under Attack

ISSUES REVIVED

The Ontario Legislature was the scene yesterday for renewal of the bitter personal feud between Premier Hepburn and the man who served as his Attorney-General from 1934 to 1937, Arthur Roebuck, Liberal member for Toronto-Bellwoods.

Jointly attacked with Mr. Roebuck were Joseph Atkinson, publisher of the Toronto Star, accused previously by the Premier of threatening to hound and harass Mr. Hepburn from public life, and Lewis Duncan, Toronto Liberal lawyer, who advised Mr. Roebuck when the latter was Attorney-General.

Forgotten was the scheduled business of the House after the flare-up started when Mr. Hepburn said he knew no one who could emulate Uriah Heep better than Mr. Roebuck. The Premier said he would recall several incidents in Mr. Roebuck's tenure as Attorney-General.

Cites Insurance Case.

Mr. Roebuck was the sole judge when Lloyd's, famous British insurance firm, was granted a license to do business in Ontario, said the Premier. Shortly afterward, Mr. Roebuck, with his brother-in-law, Donald Walkinshaw, went to England "for the payoff."

Walkinshaw served at the time as Mr. Roebuck's secretary. After their return from England, said the Premier, Mr. Roebuck asked him to transfer Walkinshaw to a post where he would have charge of Hydro insurance, though Mr. Roebuck knew that certain charges were to be made against Walkinshaw.

"I said I had reason to believe that Walkinshaw was just as crooked as Drew (Col. George Drew, now Conservative Leader) is going to paint him tomorrow," said Mr. Hepburn.

Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Roebuck had much in common, said the Premier. He accused Mr. Atkinson of being vindictive toward him after the Oshawa General Motors strike in 1937. He (Mr. Hepburn) wouldn't bow to Mr. Atkinson, but Mr. Roebuck had, he said.

The flash which caused the explosion came when Mr. Roebuck, in declaring his opposition to the two-year council term, proposed under the local government extension bill, abruptly referred to the motion of censure on the King Government's war policy, moved by Mr. Hepburn and seconded by Hon. T. B. McQuesten, which was passed at last Thursday's sitting.

"It was seconded by the president of the Ontario Liberal Association, an institution which has been defunct and has not been called since 1932. He, Mr. McQuesten, has no right to be called the president of the Ontario Liberal Association," he charged.

"I certainly have the right. I was duly elected and I have not resigned," said Mr. McQuesten.

"True, my honorable friend has not resigned, but it is about time he did resign," said Mr. Roebuck. "But I do say, the association is not the Liberal Party in Ontario. I don't want it to go abroad that the president, in seconding the motion, represented the Liberal Party, because he didn't."

Referring to another charge of the Premier's, that the newspapers opposing the bill were actuated by fear of losing revenue from election advertising, the Toronto member claimed the charge was "deplorable" and "too small, at least for me."

"It (the charge) is unfortunate and untrue and it is not in the public interest that the charge against the papers should go forth uncorrected," he added.

There came further discussion, in which W. J. Stewart, former mayor of Toronto, declared his opposition to the two-year term. When he resumed his seat, the Premier rose, and on his desk was a blue-covered sheaf of papers.

Premier Flays Roebuck.

Directing his remarks to Mr. Roebuck, he charged that, in his stand, he was "emulating Uriah Heep."

The Bellwoods member immediately demanded withdrawal.

The Premier, continuing, said Mr. Roebuck "poses as a great democrat and looks down on the rest of us from lofty heights."

The Premier claimed that when Mr. Roebuck sought to inject controversial issues, "to suit his own purposes," he should first be in a position which placed himself above attack.

Mr. Roebuck, he charged, decided that Lloyd's of London was to be allowed to do business in Ontario. "Later," he said, "he went to London with his brother-in-law (Donald Walkinshaw), and then, for the payoff, he arranged the appointment of Walkinshaw as sole representative of Lloyd's."

"Later, he came to me and asked me if I would transfer him to a position where he would have control of all the insurance on Hydro.

"He knew, and I knew, that the Leader of the Opposition was going to make damaging charges against Walkinshaw. But he had no consideration for me or for the Government's position. He only intended to do something for one of his own."

Refers to Drew Charges.

"I told him then and there that, 'I have an idea that your brother-in-law is just as crooked as charged by Colonel Drew.'"

(The reference was made to certain charges launched by Colonel Drew, some time after he was dismissed by the Hepburn Government from the post of Securities Commissioner.)

Mr. Roebuck, continued the Premier, said that Mr. McQuesten did not represent the Liberal Party, or that the censure motion did not reflect the opinion of the Liberals in Ontario.

"I have no apologies to offer for the stand I took," he said, "and I know that Mr. McQuesten has no apologies for the stand he took."

"What happened was this: Bart Sullivan, a paid employee of the Federal crowd, prepared a resolution and went around to the Liberal organizations. The resolution he prepared does not represent the feelings of the majority."

Mr. Hepburn read a letter from a former vice-president of the Liberal Association in East Hamilton, which supported the stand taken by the Premier and Colonel Drew in censuring the Dominion Government's war effort. The letter said that since the association had taken a stand against the Provincial Premier attendance had fallen off sharply, and the writer asked permission to form a club in the district of "Hepburn Liberals."

The Premier put the letter down, and turning to Mr. McQuesten said, "I say to my colleague that he need have no fear in his own constitu-

ency. He is held in high regard by the voters in his own riding."

Referring to Mr. Roebuck the Premier said: "He lauded the press, and it is a wonder he didn't sing the praises of Joe Atkinson, who told me that he would harass me out of public life unless I followed his policies with regard to the C.I.O. controversy."

"My honorable friend (indicating Hon. Harry Nixon) was present when Mr. Atkinson tried these bullying tactics," continued Mr. Hepburn. "But I didn't bow to them. But the former Attorney-General did, and he distorted justice in the Province. I say that Joe Atkinson distorted justice in this Province and the then Attorney-General bowed to his will."

Mr. Atkinson's grandsons had been involved individually in violations of motor laws, the Premier charged, and the grandfather had exerted influence in the cases. Continuing, he read to the House a report of an investigation by Hugh R. Polson, Assistant Inspector of Legal Offices, into the disposition of charges against the grandsons arising from the painting of the steps and brickwork of the Oakville High School.

This report stated that the two boys, with another, "despoiled the high school by splashing red paint over the brickwork, steps, etc. For this offense they were charged with malicious damage to property, and ordinarily would have appeared in the regular court. Mr. Hindmarsh Sr. got in touch with Mr. Roebuck and evidently exerted his influence to such an extent that Mr. Roebuck requested Crown Attorney Dick of Milton to come to his office for an interview. It was then arranged to have the case tried by Magistrate McIlveen, although this magistrate was at that time relieving in the York County Court and his territory was being taken by Magistrate Davidson. It was also arranged to have the court held on a Saturday morning, which was an off day, and as Magistrate McIlveen resided in Oakville it would not be noticed locally that a court was being held."

"When the case was opened the Crown Attorney withdrew the charge, with the arrangement that Mr. Hindmarsh Sr. was to pay damages to the extent of \$90, and the boys were to make an apology to the principal of the school and the chairman of the School Board. Without outside intervention, this case would have been tried by Magistrate Davidson in open court on the regular court day, and undoubtedly a heavy fine would have been imposed, with the option of a jail sentence in addition to an assessment for damages."

Premier Scornful.

"Nice conniving," said Premier Hepburn after he finished reading the report, "no wonder you are his pet."

Turning to the Opposition benches, the Premier said: "Now, my friends, what do you think of that? And we talk of justice in this Province of Ontario. A man, powerful through his power in the press, intervened in the workings of justice, and the Attorney-General was derelict in his duty, and did something unethical."

"I say this now: Atkinson used his influence in every possible direction under threats," the Premier charged.

"I have told you of one of the threats. I will tell you of another. He (the Premier then referred to H. C. Hindmarsh) called me into his office and said that his son failed in his examinations. They all fail—men of that calibre always fail. He told me, 'I want that boy's papers re-examined and passed.' He didn't say 'or else,' but he implied that."

The Premier read the examination records. "He failed in four of his papers, and yet this man Hindmarsh had the audacity to send for me," he said.