

# LACK COURAGE OF CONVICTIONS, MINISTERS TOLD

Back Premier in His  
Censure, Then Endorse  
Opposite, Acres Gibes

## HITS DEPARTMENTS

Members of the Hepburn Government who have taken to the hustings in support of Liberal candidates in the forthcoming Federal election were read a lecture in consistency yesterday by A. H. (Holly) Acres (Con., Carleton), who accused them of lacking the courage of their convictions.

Speaking in the Legislature budget debate, the veteran Conservative back-bencher amused himself by directing a verbal barrage all along the Treasury benches, criticizing Ministers of half a dozen departments for "shortcomings" in their administration, and climaxing his contribution to the debate with his reference to the Legislature's recent resolution censuring the war effort of the King Government.

"You fellows haven't got the courage of your own convictions," he giped. "You support your Prime Minister whenever he says the word and then, when he turns his back, you go out and endorse candidates of the same party you personally censured."

Colonel Fraser Hunter, he said, had shown the attitude that every one in Ontario should show, by refusing to accept nomination for a Federal seat.

"I refused the nomination because I thought the work of the volunteer committee for the Finnish War was more important," replied Colonel Hunter.

"That's right. You ran out of the House when the resolution came up to a vote," retorted the Conservative member.

"Because I knew a lot of fools would cause an election," the former Bengal Lancer shot back.

The member for Carleton kept the House in high good humor as he directed his barbed comments at each Minister, turn by turn, and explained what he would do if he were in charge of their departments.

He charged that the Department of Highways had indulged in "unheard of extravagance," in building the four-lane highway from Toronto to Hamilton, "just so Cabinet Ministers would be able to drive home in comfort."

The people of Ontario, he declared, were not yet in a position to carry such a burden.

Similar extravagance, he claimed, had been shown in the Government's construction of lavish mental hospitals. The needs of the Province would have been served equally well by building \$500,000 additions to hospitals "at London and two or three other places" instead of spending \$6,000,000 on the St. Thomas institution.

But his strongest shaft was reserved for the Department of Education. "The universities of Ontario are doing more harm than good," he told Hon. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education. "If I were in your place I'd cut all their grants in two—and I won't take that back no matter what anybody says."

The present educational system, he said, was unfair to the masses of the people. The State owed a primary education to every girl and boy in Ontario, he felt, but students should pay their own way for advanced education.

"Instead of making these huge grants to give university students education below cost," Mr. Acres said, "I would establish a sinking fund and loan money to bright young people of all classes who wanted a university education. Then they could pay it back during the next twenty years. Why should the public pay for the capital investment of our professional men? That's what a university education is—a capital investment."

W. G. Nixon (Lib., Temiskaming) voiced a strong plea to the Government to give special consideration to farm mortgages in arrears in Northern Ontario. Citing the fact that there were 467 such loans in existence in his district, with a total value of over \$800,000 including unpaid interest, he expressed the hope that some arrangements would be made to prevent foreclosures.

Settlers in Northern Ontario were the real pioneers of the Province, he maintained, and the contributions they had made to Ontario's growth should not be ignored.

He urged, also, that consideration be given to clauses of the Securities Act, which, he said, worked an undue hardship on prospectors. Gold prospecting in the district had been slowed up as a result of the act, he said, and the establishment of new camps was being delayed by the severity of the measure.

### Protect Soldiers' Health.

As part of the Provincial war effort, the Department of Health has distributed 15,000 ounces of typhoid vaccine to immunize soldiers and has stepped up its diagnostic services. Hon. Harold Kirby, Minister of Health, told the Legislature last night, as debate on the budget continues.

Some 3,000 specimens sent in by the militia authorities were examined and the department has arranged for admission of soldier patients to both sanatoria and mental hospitals, the Minister said. He stressed that while the department was giving every co-operation to the war effort, the health of the citizens was by no means being neglected.

During the year there was a 50 per cent reduction in typhoid fever cases and only three in every 100,000 population developed the disease, Mr. Kirby said. This was the lowest rate in the history of the Province. There was a 40 per cent decrease in undulant fever, proof that the milk pasteurization policy of the Government was bearing good fruit, the House was told. Diphtheria cases in 1939 were 50 per cent lower than in 1938, while the death rate of 3.5 was the lowest ever reported in Ontario.

"Only one case of suspected smallpox was reported in Ontario

during the year, as compared with 708 cases in 1929," said Mr. Kirby. "But the department is not too happy in the matter of vaccination among children.

"We will undoubtedly suffer another epidemic of this disease unless the younger generation is protected by vaccination."

Insulin treatment for particular forms of insanity, used at the New Toronto Ontario Hospital for several years had shown encouraging results, said Mr. Kirby. Insulin treatment units were planned for London and Brockville Ontario Hospitals. At New Toronto, 119 patients had been treated and 81 per cent derived benefit. Where mental illness was of less than eighteen months' standing, 45 per cent made complete recovery.