

# DROP SUNDAY SKI-TRAIN BILL

Argue It's Unnecessary;  
Clergy Enter Protest

CITE COMMON LAW

Although Attorney-General Conant maintains close silence on the Government's intention, it is conceded generally among Legislature members there is little chance that Sunday ski-train legislation will be introduced this year.

Interest in the project, revealed some months ago in an announcement which said the Government would introduce a measure that would bring railway excursions out from under the banning clauses of the Lord's Day Act, was heightened yesterday when all members received protests from the heads of churches.

One communication, expressing the conviction "that the proposed legislation is neither desirable nor necessary" is signed by Archbishop Derwyn T. Owen, Primate of the Church of England in Canada; Rev. William Barclay, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; Rev. Aubrey S. Tuttle, Moderator, the United Church of Canada; Commissioner Percy Orames, the Salvation Army, and Rev. T. Inrig, President of the Ontario Baptist Convention. A separate letter, bearing the identical message, is signed by Archbishop J. C. McGuigan of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toronto.

It is argued by some members that special legislation is not required. In broad terms, the Lord's Day Act (Dominion) bars excursions by commercial conveyances, unless permissive legislation is passed by the Province. But members yesterday searched the Ontario statutes and were unable to find special legislation permitting either motor coaches or steamships to make excursion trips. They cited from Common Law, "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," and claimed if one is safe from prosecution, so must be the other.

# HEPBURN TURNS BACK UPON CALL TO NEW PARLEY

Ignores Drew's Request  
for Federal-Provincial  
Meeting on Problems

HITS VOTE RUMORS

Proposal of Col. George A. Drew, K.C., Ontario Conservative Leader, that Premier Mitchell Hepburn relent in his attitude toward Ottawa, and suggest calling another Dominion-Provincial conference immediately, brought scornful silence from the Premier during Leaders' Day debate on the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature yesterday.

Completely ignoring the specific proposal, Premier Hepburn dismissed Colonel Drew's speech of one hour and fifteen minutes with the declaration that it was lacking in "meat," and challenged members of the Legislature to say otherwise.

Mr. Hepburn, who was confined to his home on Monday with a cold, spoke for only forty-five minutes, believed to be the shortest speech of this nature ever delivered by him. He claimed that the Rowell-Sirois Report was a "bond deal, pure and simple," and that those who broke up the conference on the report as quick as they did achieved more for national unity than any one else present.

Colonel Drew's plea for a new conference came by way of an amendment to the motion for adoption of the Throne Speech, and proposed that it be called for the following purposes:

1. To adopt such measures as may be necessary to assure our greatest possible war effort by inter-Governmental co-operation.
2. To adopt such measures as may be necessary to meet the emergencies created by the war.
3. To adopt such measures as may be necessary to assure adequate prices for our agricultural products.
4. To adopt such measures as may be necessary to protect the established rights of Labor.
5. To devise plans for the rehabilitation of the members of the armed forces and for the re-employment of civilians who will be thrown out of work by postwar industrial readjustments.

### "We Will Finish Session."

To these Colonel Drew added the rider that the conference would consider "such other questions relating to the welfare and security of our people, as may be deemed advisable." The amendment was seconded by Hon. T. L. Kennedy (Cons., Peel).

Colonel Drew asked it be understood he was not arguing that recommendations of the Rowell-Sirois Report should have been adopted. He conceded that it might even be possible that not a single recommendation could have been acceptable to Ontario, but held this was no excuse for Premier Hepburn helping to "scuttle" the conference before it had hardly been convened.

Premier Hepburn sought to dispel reports of an immediate Provincial election. "We will finish the session," he advised. Answering jibes on his policy of monetary expansion, he told Colonel Drew that he, (Colonel Drew) could not reach the "boot-tops" of Premier Aberhart of Alberta on monetary issues.

The amendment was given to the House with a quotation from a speech by Prime Minister Churchill, who in warning against the peril of dissension within the nation, said: "If we open a quarrel between the past and the present, we shall find that we have lost the future."

Colonel Drew added: "Let us make it clear to the rest of Canada, in terms which cannot be misunderstood, that the people of Ontario are first of all Canadians and are anxious and willing to find a friendly solution for every problem that confronts us."

"I therefore urge that the Government of Ontario take whatever steps are necessary to convene a conference of representatives from the Dominion and the nine Provincial Governments." He added that the proposed conference should not be looked upon as a continuance of the January meeting at Ottawa.

The course of the debate was set directly the moment Colonel Drew left his seat when he termed the speech of Harold Carr (Lib., Northumberland), who moved the adoption of the Speech from the Throne, "the greatest possible flight of fancy," because it credited Premier Hepburn with making valuable contributions to the unity of Canada.

While neither speaker reached a stage of bitter recrimination, the Conservative Leader did not hesitate in charging the Premier with "scuttling" the Dominion-Provincial Conference. Surely the report, he said, "was worth some examination even if every recommendation of the commission was wrong."

"Instead of seeking any solution for the urgent problems arising from the war, the Ontario representatives ran away from the conference, using language that would hardly be expected from the official representatives of States about to declare war against each other."

The Opposition Leader said he did not propose to "waste the time of this Legislature" by a detailed discussion of the commission's recommendations. "But," he added, at the beginning of his speech, "it is an insult to the intelligence of the people of this Province and to the people of the rest of Canada to suggest that when the conference met at Ottawa it could not have done a great deal of good and laid the foundation for future co-operation by agreeing on some method of tackling our problems."

### Opportunity for Agriculture.

Colonel Drew believed that, in the light of the \$28,900,000 added to the net Provincial debt in the fiscal year 1939-40, financial conditions were alarming, and that there was a critical necessity for retrenchment. He outlined the emergency powers granted to the Dominion Government by the B.N.A. Act to deal with a threat to national security. Almost every field of activity, ordinarily within the Provincial jurisdiction, is open to encroachment, he said. Gasoline, for example, now a source of exclusive Provincial taxation, may be rationed—in fact, has been rationed in every other belligerent nation. Provincial Governments "govern on sufferance." The situation, he stressed, can only be met by constant and comprehensive intergovernmental co-operation.

The conference, he argued, offered an opportunity to put agriculture on its feet. "But the Premier ran away from the conference and began to hurl challenges at the Dominion Department of Agriculture in the best Balkan manner."

Regarded as criticism of the Government's cheese and bacon bonus policies, Colonel Drew's address declared that when "conditions have made it necessary for Governments to adopt measures of control over prices, distribution and delivery of farm products, then the principle must be adopted that the farmer is entitled to receive the cost of what