

Cox Asks Timber Board During Stormy Debate With Forests Minister

Criticism of Policies Is
Termed Personal Attack
by Peter Heenan

EXCHANGE BITTER

Charges by Charles W. Cox, Mayor of Port Arthur, that timber administration policies of the Government of which he is a member are "ruinous" to his district, yesterday in the Legislature, drew from Lands and Forests Minister Peter Heenan the reply that the one-time Hepburn Minister without portfolio has delayed, more than any other man, the development of timber resources.

"You have witnessed the wrath and the scorn of a disgruntled politician," charged Mr. Heenan, and again, he said: "All he wanted was to have all the patronage of the northwest part of the Province. I wouldn't stand for it, and I won't stand for it today. I would leave the Cabinet before I knuckled to such a thing."

The speech by Mayor Cox contained a recommendation that "an independent, non-political committee be formed to determine what changes should be made in the policy. I could suggest names of men who might act. Some, by virtue of their interest in transportation problems, would be vitally interested, such as Sir Edward Beatty and S. J. Hungerford, presidents, respectively, of the C.P.R. and C.N.R.; Mr. Justice McTague, chairman of the Royal Commission which recently investigated affairs of the Abitibi Pulp & Paper Company; and G. R. Cottrelle, Toronto banker and industrialist, at present Federal Oil Controller."

Termed Personal Attack.

The storm broke in the House directly after Mayor Cox, who is member for Port Arthur, finished his address in the Throne Speech debate. It was named by the Lands and Forests Minister as a personal attack upon him and, for the most part, members left the stage to the two antagonists.

The first break in the duel between the Minister from Kenora and the member from Port Arthur came when Mr. Heenan asserted that, after Mr. Cox was elected in 1934 and the election had been protested, the petitioners behind the protest said they would withdraw the protest if he promised them that they would not have to go to Mr. Cox as an intermediary in securing pulpwood-cutting agreements. He said the protests subsequently had been withdrawn.

"The Conservatives did not withdraw the protest," Leopold Macaulay (Con., South York), interjected. He added that he, personally, in the Legislature had led the fight against a Government bill, in the 1935 session, which had the effect of invalidating a petition asking for the unseating of Mr. Cox.

"It was the only time such a bill has ever been presented in this House," he said.

Mr. Cox charged that the present timber policy is "not only ruinous to the district which I represent but will have a far-reaching and detrimental effect on the Province and Dominion." He stressed also that the Lands and Forests Department received approximately one-third of its revenue from the Port Arthur office and that about 90 per cent of the pulpwood exported from Crown Lands came from the same territory.

"Under agreements made by previous administrations, although contracts invariably were never carried out or enforced, there was at least a camouflaged effort to have the timber manufactured in Canada," he said. Reallocation of timber areas has been done in a way which gave the exporting mills and those supplying the export market "a very decided advantage over Canadian mills."

He said he was "extremely doubtful" anything constructive might develop from the Legislative Timber Inquiry, which is due to report to the House after the Royal Commission inquiry into the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company has presented its findings.

Many men representing the \$30,000,000 pulp and paper industry "know the present policy is ruinous and would have gladly given evi-

dence at the timber probe but for fear of reprisals," he charged.

He charged that the Lake Sulphite Company project "represents one of the North country's biggest recent political blunders — one which has again cost the poor public many millions. It is my considered opinion politicians played a most important part in its collapse.

Mr. Heenan declared Mr. Cox "actually took credit for establishing Lake Sulphite, but now that it is bankrupt, it is the Minister of Lands and Forests who established the mill."

He charged that the Port Arthur Mayor had personally led a delegation to Queen's Park for the lifting of the ban on the export of raw pulp and that, one time in 1937, without consulting the Premier or the Minister of Lands and Forests, he called a conference of United States pulp buyers "and threatened and pleaded to these representatives to give him orders for wood. I was never so ashamed in my life to attend a conference."

Mr. Cox, he declared, had reversed his policy on pulp export for "political expediency." In 1934, he charged, "he was guilty of trespass—he went on other people's areas without the authority of the Crown.

"Because I have dared to oppose him I have been the subject of his malicious attacks," declared Mr. Heenan.