

RAP MILK BOARD AS TYRANNICAL; DELAY NEW BILL

One Clause Asks Fees
to Local Association
From All Producers

'ARBITRARY BODY'

With charges that the Ontario Milk Control Board was an "arbitrary" and a "tyrannical authority," Liberals and Conservatives yesterday loosed a joint attack in the Legislature upon the board. A more general assault was indicated when proposed legislation is called for further discussion.

Criticism broke out when the House was directed to give second reading to an amendment to the Milk Control Act. By the amendment municipalities are given authority to appoint a consumer representative by by-law, and the board is authorized to supply the representative all information which is "not of a confidential nature."

A second clause rules that the board may make an order requiring every producer to pay fees to the different milk producers' associations, if the board is of the opinion that the association "is fairly representative of the producers."

The first attack came from Liberal Whip Ian Strachan, member for Toronto-St. George, when he declared that the board was an arbitrary authority and that its powers were a fit subject for the investigation of the Administration of Justice Committee. He declared there should be right of appeal from the board's decisions.

J. J. Glass (Lib., Toronto-St. Andrews) followed with the charge that it placed an entire industry in the hands of the producers and distributors. He asserted there was an injustice in the ruling that cash-and-carry customers could not buy milk at a price lower than the delivery price.

"Most Tyrannical Authority."

"Why don't you fix up the Milk Control Board so that municipalities wouldn't have to waste time appointing representatives to come down here and make speeches to this fifth-wheel board?" demanded Leopold Macaulay (Con., South York). "I am going to recommend when the estimates come around that we cut the salaries off these men. They don't do anything. They are not even worth a dollar a year."

"How do you mean, fix up?" asked Hon. P. M. Dewan, Minister of Agriculture.

"Why I could cut it off right behind the ears," Mr. Macaulay retorted. "They are an arbitrary body. They make a ruling and announce it and before you can get down to King Street they have changed it, and no one can do anything about it. Talk about your Star Chamber methods. This is the most tyrannical authority and it has powers of life and death not only over the producers but the consumers. Instead of this eyewash, asking the municipalities to appoint representatives to come down and make a speech, why don't you put a consumer representative on the board?"

"And here's the worst of it," continued Mr. Macaulay. "It's all done presumably to protect the farmer. This great umbrella is held over the dairy industry, but who is it protecting? It is protecting an industry which may be sadly conceived and the poor farmer down at the bottom gets very little out of it."

Mr. Dewan estimated that the Toronto milk-shed farmer got approximately one-half of the 13 cents charged for quarts. In recent increases the increases all went to the farmer, he said.

The attack shifted in another direction when Harold N. Carr (Lib., Northumberland) and Conservative Leader Drew scored the section which required the collection of association fees from all producers, whether or not they were members of the association.

"If you are prepared to adopt that principle in regard to milk, I can see no reason why the principle should not be extended to other things as well," said Colonel Drew.

Acting Premier Nixon ruled that second reading be deferred. When bills were called it was on the understanding that only non-contentious legislation was to be considered.

URGES ONTARIO TO SPEND LESS

'Give Leadership, Not
Bledership,' Is Plea

It is the duty of the Government to cut expenses to the bone and to "give leadership, not bledership," J. deC. Hepburn (Con., Prince Edward-Lennox), declared during the budget debate in the Legislature yesterday. He demanded that the Government pare down expenses for the duration of the war.

"These are perilous times in Canada and the world," he said, "and nothing should be done to detract from any war effort. We should and must give the best that is in us. Party politics and prejudice should be cast out of the window. There should be no more surpluses during the war. The Government could show a much greater war effort by paring expenses to the bone and thus relieving the load on the taxpayer and enable him to do his own war effort, as he sees fit."

"This huge spending machine which has been built up by this Government should be put in the garage until after the war. There should be a suspension of all road construction, except that which was vitally necessary."

He pointed out that after the war there will be many men, discharged from the army and munition factories, who will be looking for work and a constructive road-building program will greatly help in absorbing them into the ranks of the employed.