

APRIL 1.

Timber Committee to Study Report Before Findings Are Submitted

CONFERENCE TODAY.

With tabling yesterday in the Legislature of the Royal Commission report on the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company, an attempt will be made to convene the legislative timber inquiry committee for a wind-up session not later than Thursday, in the hope that its report will be presented to the House the first of next week.

Early action on the timber probe is seen as a matter of necessity, in that it is planned to recess the Legislature at least by Thursday, April 10. Members will be called back later to validate the St. Lawrence seaways agreement between Ontario and Ottawa, when and if the main agreement between the Dominion and Washington is approved.

A conference will be held today, it is understood, between Provincial Secretary Nixon, Conservative Leader Drew and J. A. Cooper, chairman of the committee, on the question of procedure and the time of the final sitting.

House members last night believed there will not be a unanimous finding and reminded that Colonel Drew, in pressing for release of the Abitibi report, indicated in his remarks that his attitude toward the Department of Lands and Forests might not be in accord with that of Government members.

It is also understood among Conservative members that strong objection will be taken in the matter of departmental administration.

From questions by Colonel Drew during the course of the inquiry, particularly when Lands and Forests Minister Peter Heenan was being examined, it is considered likely that the Conservative member will make recommendations in regard to changes in departmental administration.

The committee was appointed on April 27, 1939, held sittings during the 1940 session and after, and recessed until the investigation into Abitibi was concluded.

BROKERS' BILL IS WITHDRAWN IN LEGISLATURE

Government License Plan Is Criticized as 'Another Regulation'

DIRECTED AT FRAUD

Legislation to license and control business brokers, which weathered two stormy debate periods earlier in the session, came to a sudden-death end yesterday at Queen's Park when Attorney-General Conant moved in second reading that it not be reported.

Criticism had been voiced against the principle of further Government regulation of business. Conservative Leader Drew had been particularly critical of what he claimed was an imperfect and too general definition of the term "business brokers."

Yesterday, when the Attorney-General withdrew the bill, Colonel Drew urged that a stronger regard be given to the principle, "let the buyer beware." He argued that the public had a certain responsibility to guard itself against fraudulent and unscrupulous acts.

Mr. Conant said the bill was prepared after many representations had been made, particularly by the Toronto Better Business Bureau. The bill had the merit, he believed, of "accomplishing something in the direction of eliminating unscrupulous agents and salesmen. What is of more importance, it is a step in the direction of preventing people—very often poor people who can ill afford it—being cheated out of their hard-earned money or savings by such unscrupulous people."

It had the demerit, he admitted, of representing another control and regulation of business. "I am personally opposed to the regulation of business by Governments to any greater extent than is absolutely necessary or unless the end to be accomplished amply justifies the means. I have often said, and I repeat, that the less control of business by Government there is, the better it is for business and the better it is for Government."