

APRIL 9

CHANGE VICIOUS DREW CHARGES

Inconsistency was charged last night to the Hepburn Administration by Conservative Leader Drew. He attacked an amendment to the Succession Duty Act which gave the Treasurer "absolute discretion" in determining whether any purpose, for which exemption is given, is of a religious, charitable or educational character.

The provision was "vicious," he charged, and declared the principle wholly inconsistent with that which motivated the Government to give right of appeal against orders of the Securities Commission.

Col. Drew stressed he was not opposed to the collection of succession duties but to the arbitrary powers vested in the Treasurer by the act.

"There is no right of appeal from the absolute discretion of an elected official," he said, as he moved that the words "absolute discretion," be struck from the amendment. The motion was lost.

WAR COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE

Premier Hepburn, on the plea of Conservative Leader Drew that the time may arrive soon when the Ontario Organization of Resources Committee may be called by Ottawa to co-operate in the national war effort last night withdrew a bill to repeal the act under which the committee was formed.

"I certainly never recommended that the act should be repealed," said Colonel Drew, who, with Hon. Albert Matthews, Lieutenant-Governor, and Premier Hepburn, forms the nucleus of the committee.

The act, drafted during the first Great War, was again brought into effect at the special Succession Duty war session of September, 1939. The Premier and Colonel Drew both reported to the House that the committee has not met since the 1940 session. "We have no requests of any kind whatsoever from Ottawa," said the Premier.

He recalled how the committee members went to Ottawa prior to the 1940 session and pledged full co-operation to the King Cabinet.

Help Bona Fide Grubstaking, Is Plea for Mine Prospectors

Relaxation of the restrictions "which are preventing the financing of bona fide grubstaking" was urged upon the Government last night by Conservative Leader Drew as the House sent the Securities Act amendment, giving appeal rights against orders of the Securities Commission, through committee stage.

"I don't question the good faith and the anxiety to do a public service of any member of the Commission," said Colonel Drew, first Commissioner under the Securities Act, 1930. "But we should no longer ignore the strong pleas on the part of prospectors and mining men for some relaxation of the regulations of the act.

"The difficulties were not being caused by the wording of the act, Order-in-Council. I feel that there are too severe restrictions placed upon the honest prospector who but by the regulations passed by wants to raise enough money to go

into the bush," he said, in maintaining that the regulations were placing the prospector in the financing field.

Redress against wrongdoers, claimed Colonel Drew, should be left with effective punishment under the Criminal Code.