

February 19

Hepburn Protests Censors 'Tampering' With His Mail

Describing Government censorship as "that Ottawa Gestapo," Premier Hepburn rose before the orders of the day in the Legislature yesterday to voice an emphatic protest against the action of the Dominion authorities in "tampering" with his personal mail.

The Premier said a letter addressed to him from the Saints and Sinners Club in New York had been opened by the censors.

"It was an invitation to attend the next meeting of the club, at which time that great Canadian, Air Marshal Billy Bishop, is to be initiated," said Premier Hepburn. "For the benefit of the Ottawa Gestapo

I might say that at a subsequent meeting Mr. Wendell Willkie will be initiated, and I hope to receive an invitation to attend. I am giving this information so that there will be no need to open my mail."

The Premier introduced the subject by referring to an editorial in The Globe and Mail of Wednesday in which such censorship was condemned as indefensible. Mr. Hepburn said that mail addressed to Mr. Hanson and Dr. Bruce had been opened by the censors, and scored the disclosure made in the House of Commons by the Postmaster-General that extracts from the letters had been passed on to third parties.