

March 26

Extend Term of Government By One Year, Queen's Park Plan

A bill to extend for one year the life of the present Government will be introduced in the Legislature before the close of the session, it was reported at Queen's Park yesterday. It is understood Premier Hepburn will meet the Liberal members in caucus and explain the situation to his supporters.

Re-elected in 1937, the Hepburn Government is now in its final year of the five-year term. One of two choices confronts the Government, it is pointed out. Call a general election, or extend its own life. The Premier has repeatedly expressed his opposition to an election in wartime.

As far as a Coalition Government is concerned, this plan, often rumored in recent months as a strong possibility, is regarded as out of the question. This leaves the second choice, an extension of the present term for one year. It is reported that the Conservatives are prepared to give an extension bill the unanimous consent which must be forthcoming before it can be adopted.

At the present time the Conservative Party in Ontario would prefer to see the Liberal regime remain in office for one more year rather than face an immediate general election with the more than likely prospect of seeing the Liberals go back to power for another five years.