

## Plan Immigration Now, Drew Urges in House

Immediate appointment by the Provincial Government of a committee, under the authority of the War-time Organization of Resources Act, to draft plans and co-operate with authorities of Great Britain for a postwar, mass movement of British people to Ontario, was pressed upon the Hepburn Administration yesterday by Opposition Leader Lieutenant-Colonel George A. Drew.

The Conservative Leader, in his address on the Budget, declared the people of Britain today recognized there must be a tremendous readjustment in the British Isles when the war is over. Labor and industry, and the youth of Britain, he said, is looking forward to the possibility of organized movements of great masses of the population from Britain to Dominions within the Empire. He had found, in his recent fact-finding tour of Britain, evidence that authorities there were anxious that co-operating, planning effort should be organized in the Dominions.

Colonel Drew stressed also that under the powers of the British North America Act, the Provinces had equal authority with the Dominion in the matter of immigration and that jurisdiction problems did not affect his suggestion.

"There is no reason," he said, "why the Province cannot lay down a plan to prepare for this movement. I can assure you that if such a committee is set up, there will be no delay in setting up such committees in Britain."

"In that way," the Conservative Leader stressed, "we can lay the foundation for a movement into Ontario of the very best type of people in the world."

He spoke of the certain vast indus-

trial developments arising from the need to replace consumer goods and to replace that which has been destroyed in the war period. "I have a vision," he said, "of Ontario alone, supporting a population of anywhere between twenty and twenty-five millions. With that vision we can make this rich area—and there is no richer area for its size in the whole world—area of prosperity.

"This is the time for Ontario, acting alone, to lay the foundation for that movement of splendid people who want to come here when the war is over."

Premier Hepburn, asked last night if the Government would consider Colonel Drew's recommendation, said the Province did not have the "constitutional authority to determine any policy not in harmony with the Federal Government's policy. We are," added the Premier, "anxious to secure British immigration, but our first job is to win the war."

## SEEK TO AVOID ONTARIO VOTE

### Hepburn Caucus Already Agreed to No Election

Support for extension of the term of the Ontario Legislature for one year to avert an election during the present critical war period was voted yesterday by a Liberal caucus led by Premier Hepburn.

The principle of caucus solidarity was maintained at the end of a one-hour committee room session although, it is understood, a number of members were critical, and sharply so, of the proposal to limit the extension to a one-year term.

Behind their stand was the argument that if it were necessary in the interests of the war effort to forestall an election for one year, then the principle of extension should be applied for the duration.

Premier Hepburn would not indicate when he would bring down legislation to make the extension effective but, it is stated, the bill will be introduced on Monday. Law officers, it is pointed out, in the drafting will have guidance in similar legislation passed by the House during the spring term of 1918 when the Legislature of that day unanimously supported an extension measure, proposed by the then Liberal Opposition and applying to the war's duration.

Having regard to the many public expressions by the leader of the Opposition, Lieutenant - Colonel George A. Drew, in opposition to an election, it is assumed that he will support the bill. Colonel Drew, it is known, was in conference Wednesday night with the Premier and it is assumed that the extension proposal was a major topic of their conversation. Conservative members, it is an open secret, will give support to the measure.

As in 1918, war interest and war interest alone, is given as the reason for an action that will avert the necessity of putting the Province through the disturbance of an election during a period which both sides now recognize may determine the outcome of the war.

Legal advisers to the Cabinet are confident that powers of extension rest without question in authority granted to the Provinces under the British North America Act.