

WILL PAY JAPS REGULAR WAGES

Hepburn Says Ontario Won't Exploit Them

The Japanese from British Columbia will not be exploited in Ontario but will be paid the prevailing rate of wages, Premier Hepburn declared in the Legislature yesterday, in answer to a charge made by William Duckworth (Cons., Dovercourt), that they were being brought into the Province to provide cheap labor.

The discussion of the Japanese movement into Ontario as a war security measure, came after Opposition Leader George Drew had touched upon his previous day's suggestion that Ontario take steps to provide machinery for bringing English-speaking people to Ontario after the war. Lieutenant-Colonel Drew referred to a statement made by Premier Hepburn, in which the latter expressed doubt as to Ontario's constitutional authority.

It was while replying to Colonel Drew that Premier Hepburn brought up the Japanese question, and when Mr. Duckworth voiced the view that the movement of Japanese into Ontario was designed to provide cheap labor, the Premier read a memorandum on the subject. The memorandum sets out that the Japanese workmen must be paid the prevailing rate of pay. The memorandum, to which the Dominion Government agreed, also states that on conclusion of the war the Federal authorities will remove the Japanese from Ontario.

"I have every possible sympathy for the people of British Columbia," said the Premier. "I believe we did a fair thing, a Canadian thing, in agreeing to take several thousand Japanese into Ontario. The Dominion is entirely responsible for them and guarantees they will not become a charge on the Province or on any municipality."

The Premier pointed out that the addition of some 3,000 Japanese to the northern camps meant that Ontario lands and forests revenue would be increased by half a million dollars annually. It also meant that production of wood products would be boosted, he said.

Colonel Drew, in repeating his case for a Provincial organization to ensure a flow of English-speaking people after the war, pointed out that under Section 95 of the British North America Act Ontario possessed power to act in a matter of immigration. The only stipulation was that nothing done by the Province should be repugnant to any existing Dominion law, said Colonel Drew.

"The only act that could limit our authority would be one that strictly forbade the immigration into Canada of English-speaking people," said Colonel Drew. "And as long as we live there will never be legislation of that kind on the statute books of Canada."

AMENDMENTS AID WORKERS

Protective Legislation Introduced in House

Labor relations legislation, which stems partially from representations made to the Ontario Government by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, was contained yesterday in the Statute Law Amendment Act introduced to the Ontario Assembly by Attorney-General Conant.

Legislation of a protective character, and sought by the Congress, is represented by an amendment to the Mechanics' Lien Act. By its terms, all monies which are advanced to a building contractor on behalf of contracts, are held in trust and cannot be dissipated until the wage and other obligations to supply men and workers are paid.

The Congress representations declared opposition to the use of court injunctions against picketing in labor disputes. By an amendment to the Judicature Act it is proposed to place a four-days limitation upon the duration of an injunction order. Up until the present, no time limit is set, although, it is noted, the judges of the Supreme Court follow the limitation of eight days set by the Rules of Practice, as the maximum time for which a county judge may grant an injunction.

The Master and Servant Act is amended. It is explained that the act provides simple machinery for the collection of wages by bringing the employer before a justice of the peace who may make an order for payment not exceeding \$100. The amendment increases the limit from \$100 to \$200.