

# HOLDS ONTARIO CAN LEGISLATE ON IMMIGRATION

But Must Not Conflict  
With Dominion Laws,  
Lieut.-Col. Drew Says

Conservative Leader George A. Drew, who in his address in the Budget debate last week pressed the Hepburn Administration to organize a committee to co-operate with United Kingdom committees on postwar immigration to Ontario, last night in a statement reiterated earlier claims made in the House, that the Provincial Government's jurisdiction was "clear" and did not "conflict with any existing law of the Parliament of Canada."

In discussion in the House, Premier Hepburn stressed that he was wholly in accord with any suggestion which would bring British immigration to the Province, but claimed that the Provinces had no power to deal with immigration. Lieutenant-Colonel Drew's statement follows:

"The Province can make any law regarding immigration so long as it does not conflict with any existing law of the Parliament of Canada. Section 95 of the British North America Act makes that perfectly clear.

"When Premier Hepburn says that immigration of Japanese to British Columbia against the Province's wishes is proof that the Provinces have no power to deal with immigration, it is clear that he has been misinformed regarding the effect of this section.

"When the Dominion Government permitted the immigration of Japanese into British Columbia, the Provincial Government could not prevent it because that would have been directly contrary to the law already passed by the Dominion Parliament.

"But that has no bearing on the point that I have raised. If the Province of Ontario makes plans for the immigration of people from Britain, the Provincial Parliament has just as much legal power as the Dominion Parliament unless there is a Dominion act prohibiting such immigration. That would be the only way that the course of the Provincial Government could be 'repugnant to any act of the Parliament of Canada.' That is definitely the only legal restriction on the power of the Provincial Government to pass any law dealing with immigration into the Province of Ontario.

"It is utterly unthinkable that the Dominion Government would pass any law prohibiting the immigration of British people into this Province. The people of Ontario would not tolerate anything of that kind. It is clear, therefore, that the Government of Ontario has the legal power to adopt the plan I have proposed."