

DREW'S MOTION FAILS TO PASS

Legislature Refuses to Extend Inquiry

Unsuccessfully, Opposition Leader George Drew carried to a motion in the Legislature yesterday his effort, previously defeated in Public Accounts Committee, to extend inquiry into Government expenditures into the current fiscal year. Inquiry is now limited to the fiscal year ending last March 31. He cited as his reasons for extending inquiry the Government's "million dollar tax bill" of the last fiscal year as well as affairs concerning the Rainbow Bridge at Niagara Falls. His motion was defeated 48 to 17.

The account for cost and maintenance of the Government's cars for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1942, was given by Col. Drew as \$970,000. N. O. Hipel, Minister of Lands and Forests, objected that there was a vast difference between a "taxi bill" and mileage paid to owners of cars, a practice found more economical than the Government owning the cars used.

"Spending money like drunken sailors" was Col. Drew's charge against the Government which had been "so concerned saving money on automobiles a few years ago," (referring evidently to the famous Hepburn sale of Government cars when he came to power in 1934). With the wartime "tendency to extravagance," Col. Drew urged: "It's not much use being able to examine public accounts to March 31, 1942, when it's now March 30, 1943."

Both Leopold Macaulay (Prog. Cons., South York) and George S. Henry (Prog. Cons., East York) supported Col. Drew's criticism of the public accounts system. The adverse vote on the Opposition motion was taken after the Speaker had objected to further debate.

A flat rate for Hydro power and decentralization of industry as aids to elimination of labor, transportation and housing problems were advocated by J. de C. Hepburn (Prog. Cons., Prince Edward-Lennox), continuing the Budget debate

DECLARES POLLS WILL VINDICATE LIBERAL REGIME

Eric Cross Lauds Policy of Taxation Before the Legislature

The people of Ontario will not be unmindful of the fine record of the Liberal Government when the time comes to go to the polls, Eric W. Cross (Lib., Haldimand-Norfolk) declared in the Legislature yesterday during a Budget debate address.

"Will the honorable member tell us who will be Leader of the Liberal Party?" asked William Duckworth (Prog. Con., Dovercourt).

Mr. Cross smiled. "I have heard that my honorable friend is prepared to vote for me," he said, directing his remark at Mr. Duckworth.

Mr. Cross, a former Minister of Welfare, dealt with the record of the Government over the past nine years, declaring that the direction of taxation had been changed in order to provide relief for real estate. Municipalities in Ontario were never healthier, and they enjoyed the lowest per capita levies in a decade, as well as sharp reduction in municipal debt.

Claims Sound Policy.

"There comes a time when Governments must decide between human needs and the needs of money," said Mr. Cross, dealing with an Opposition member's statement that a sinking fund should be set up for retirement of highway debt. "When it comes to a choice between providing social services and setting up a sinking fund or making any other financial provision along this line, there can be only one choice. It is a sound taxation policy to take from those who can afford in order to provide services for the needy."

Mr. Cross spoke of the great role Ontario would play in giving leadership to the rest of Canada in social security. One of the problems which the Social Security Committee in Ontario would face was the constitutional relations with the Dominion and with the other Provinces, he said.

One of the problems was that the Provinces did not have a taxation base sufficiently broad to support the variety of social services required by the citizens. Mr. Cross expressed the opinion that the contributory feature should be maintained in most social services.

Dealing with requests that the age for old-age pensions should be reduced from 70 to 65, Mr. Cross told the House that in 30 years' time in Ontario, without any increase in population taking place, "we will have twice as many people on old-age pensions as we have today." A plan to reduce the old-age pensions age from 70 to 65 would involve Ontario in an additional expenditure of 14 millions, he said.