

APRIL 2

Bootleggers' Budget, Col. Drew Maintains

Describing the financial statement of the Province as a "bootleggers' Budget to a very considerable extent," Opposition Leader George Drew declared in the Legislature yesterday that a surplus merely meant over-taxation of the people to that amount.

Closing the Budget debate for the Opposition, Col. Drew described the liquor operations of the Government as "disorderly distribution at its worst." The enormous sales in the months following the Prime Minister's announcement of liquor and beer restrictions showed evidence of lack of control, charged Col. Drew.

"Men working in factories who try to get a glass of beer to which they are legally entitled after working hours find that others who have plenty of time on their hands have absorbed the available supply," commented Col. Drew. "That is simply creating a bootleggers' paradise, and the evidence is clear on all sides that bootlegging has started on a scale not known in this Province since the days of prohibition."

Col. Drew said the idea that the Dominion Government possessed some mysterious source of funds from which they could make payments to Ontario which imposed no burden on the people of Ontario was one that had to be dispelled. The three great taxing bodies, the Dominion, the Provinces and the municipalities, all obtained their money from the same people, he said.

Dealing with agriculture, Col. Drew clashed with Minister of Agriculture P. M. Dewan, the exchange becoming heated at times.

Col. Drew drew attention to what he described as a conflict of opinion on the Liberal side of the House over the position of agriculture. He quoted from Provincial Treasurer Gordon's Budget address a reference to the plight of the farmer and the need for drastic action to save this basic industry.

"That seems to be in conflict with the glowing assurances given by the Minister of Agriculture," said Col. Drew.

"I was comparing the position of the farmer in 1943 with what it was in 1940," declared Mr. Dewan. "I stand by what I said."