

BILLS PROTECT ONLY ACTIVE FIGHTING MEN

Premier George Drew made it clear in the Legislature yesterday that Government legislation for financial protection for members of the armed services "will not include those in uniform who have not offered life and limb for their country."

The Premier made his statement in answer to a question by Flt. Lt. L. E. Wismer (C.C.F., Toronto-Riv-erdale), who asked whether draftees were included. He thought they should be, as the three bills involved were to protect the financial obligations of men in the services. He said many in the active services were needed in Canada.

"Distinction is not drawn," said the Premier. "This is an offer of a special form of protection to those to whom this country is indebted, and this Government is not willing to make special provision for men who are unwilling to fight for their country."

Asked for Review.

Flt. Lt. Wismer had asked the Government to review its bills to include draftees, and wanted to know if there was any distinction between men who were drafted for active service and those who volunteered.

The bills passed through committee stage and now await third reading.

Arthur Williams, (C.C.F., Ontario) attacked the Government of the proposal to charge 3 per cent interest for the loan made by the Province to protect a serviceman's insurance policy. There was nothing "meaner" than to make members of the armed forces pay 3 per cent. interest on the loan when they returned from overseas.

"The Government that would stoop to do a thing like that is not worth a tinker's damn," exclaimed Mr. Williams.

The House was in committee stage when this remark was made, and Chairman Roly Patterson (L., Grey North) called for a withdrawal.

"I withdraw the remark, but I still feel very strongly on the matter."

Later Attorney-General Blackwell said only "sheer ignorance" would have led the member for Ontario to make such a statement, and Mr. Williams replied that "only ignorance would promote such a remark from the Attorney-General."

Earlier in the week, when the insurance protection bill was given second reading, Premier Drew told the House that the 3 per cent. interest rate was the estimated cost of financing these arrangements. It was pointed out that if the individual active service member arranged through other sources to take care of his life insurance payments, it would cost him 6 per cent interest.

FRENCH LIBERAL SUPPORTS MOVE ON TAX RELIEF

The Drew Government's plan to appoint a Royal commission for full study of the best methods whereby real estate could be relieved of 50 per cent of education costs was approved in the Legislature last night by Aurelien Belanger (L., Prescott).

Speaking in the Budget debate, the French-Canadian member declared: "If the Government feels the facts can be better studied and recommendations better made by a Royal commission, I'm all for it. The Government will have my full support for that part of it."

Mr. Belanger said the promised 50 per cent reduction in real estate taxes for education had caused many sneers. But, he said, if a Government came into the House bound by its promise to implement the measure "by one fell swoop," he would have fought it.

"I would have told them they're not ready to do it—that they would enrich the rich and impoverish the poor. They're not ready without further study."

Reforms would wait a long time if they waited for perfect legislation. "Reform," he said, "does not always mean renovation; it means progress."

Asks Action at Once.

If the Government does not feel in a position to give 50 per cent. school tax relief to real estate at once, it should assume 25 per cent. as an evidence of good faith, A. A. MacLeod (L.P., Toronto Bellwoods), declared.

He urged also that the Government forget its Provincial view and co-operate whole-heartedly with the Dominion Government for a greater Canada. The Dominion might even be permitted to remain in some tax fields which the Province expected to have returned to it after the war under the Dominion-Provincial agreement — providing the Dominion assumed responsibility for social services.

Mr. MacLeod said co-operation could not be achieved in a belligerent attitude, and charged a "snarling, growling, grudging attitude" by the Province toward the Dominion authorities. Talk of the Dominion's "moral right" to give back sources of revenue, he thought, "is a euphemism for the old narrow concept of Provincial rights." There was too much tendency, he claimed, toward the "Balkanization of Canada."

"There should be less talk of Provincial rights," he said, "and more of making Canada a prosperous nation."

"Footnote to Folly."

He termed the Government's temporary grant of \$3,100,000 to the municipalities pending the school tax settlement as "a footnote to folly." If the Government found that its "mid-Victorian conception of finance made it impossible to fulfill the pledge" it was still within its ability to go beyond the "paltry" \$3,100,000 and assume at this session 25 per cent. of school taxes "as an evidence of good faith." The Province's credit would not be impaired but would be higher.

Mr. MacLeod suggested that this session of the House be not prorogued but adjourned and the members be called again in the fall to assist the Government with what problems arose meanwhile.

Provincial Treasurer Leslie Frost, he said, took too gloomy a view of the future in forecasting reduced revenues and "comes close to being a peregrinating apostle of gloom."

Perhaps, however, the Treasurer was "packing away a little sunshine for next session, to make the welkin ring with the surplus he will announce."

L. G. Robinson (C.C.F., Waterloo South) adjourned the debate at 11 p.m. for resumption, probably this afternoon.