

April 5

HEPBURN WARNS OF 'HEADACHES'

After a two-hour debate, highlighted by ex-Premier Mitchell Hepburn's challenge of its constitutionality, the Drew Government's act to amend the Milk Control Act received second reading last night in the Legislature. The act enables a milk producers' association to collect fees from producers to pay salaries and expenses of officers of the association.

Mr. Hepburn opposed the bill as giving power to a private organization to levy a tax which, he said, was beyond the powers of the Legislature to do. He insisted also that the measure should have been introduced as a private bill. He saw "many headaches ahead if you establish this dangerous precedent."

Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell explained that the measure was in the public interest, and so was properly introduced.

Highways Minister George Doucett, sponsor of the bill, said the Opposition was "splitting hairs," since the bill was similar to schemes for marketing of cheese and other produce.

Support of the Liberal group came from Farquhar R. Oliver (L., Grey South), who said he hoped all farmers would become effectively organized. The C.C.F. Opposition also supported the measure, Opposition Leader Jolliffe declaring he could see no new or startling principle in it.

M.P.P.'s Propose O.A.C. Stress Short Courses

Highways Minister George Doucett guided the Agriculture Department's estimates through the House in supply yesterday, substituting for Col. T. L. Kennedy, who has been indisposed for the past several weeks. Mr. Doucett was able to furnish the answers for most of the questions asked by Opposition members.

Miss Agnes Macphail (C.C.F., East York) suggested that it would be a good idea to adopt the Ottawa practice and have Deputy Ministers and other experts sit on the floor of the House during consideration of the estimates so as to be able to provide the Ministers with the necessary information.

She and R. A. McEwing (L., Wellington North) were in agreement on the view that the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph should emphasize one and two-year courses instead of the four-year degree course. Most of the graduates of O.A.C. went into industry, where their specialized knowledge helped industry to "squeeze" the farmers, Miss Macphail declared.

Mr. McEwing said O.A.C. was out of reach of the average farm boy as a result of the emphasis on training specialists. He believed the Government should give assistance to farm youths in much the same manner as financial aid was given to those who came under the youth training scheme.

Too Many Farm Experts in Toronto; Miss Macphail Asks Decentralization

Decentralization of agricultural experts now "centred" in Toronto was advocated by Miss Agnes Macphail (C.C.F., York East) during discussion of agriculture estimates in the Legislature yesterday.

Miss Macphail said that too much money spent under the head of agriculture did not get back to the farm. She urged that instead of having agricultural experts located in Toronto, there should be substations located throughout the counties with graduates from the schools of agriculture spending some time after graduation on back concession work.

A. St. Clair Gordon (L., Kent West) discussing the sugar-beet subsidy, thought there should be some definite understanding on policy and did not believe it should be necessary to subsidize the industry. Premier Drew agreed that such matters should come naturally under a planning board and recalled his efforts to have a Dominion-Provincial board appointed. "I heartily concur," he said, "in that there should be some long-term plan under which those engaged in industry should know what to expect from year to year."