

April 6

FOREST CONTROL TO BE VESTED IN COMMISSION

Complete authority over the lands and forests of Ontario is vested in the Ontario Forest Resources Commission, Premier George Drew told the Legislature yesterday when the bill to create the commission was placed in committee stage.

The relation of the Forest Resources Commission to the Government will be exactly the same as the relation of the Hydro Commission to the Government, the Premier explained.

The commission would not dissolve the Department of Lands and Forests, but the plan called for the administration of the department to come under the commission. He emphasized that the commission would not duplicate any existing body.

In dealing with forests it should be remembered that they were a crop, except that the rotation period was between 20 and 100 years. Due to this fact the Government was setting up a long-range policy in order to improve the forests "crop" in Ontario, the Premier said.

An amendment by J. B. Salsberg (L.P., Toronto-St. Andrew) that a nominee of the trade union movement be placed on the commission was defeated without a recorded division. Premier Drew said the Government must take full responsibility for the commission and could not permit its hands to be tied by having to appoint persons nominated by other than the Government itself.

"No Government can assume responsibility for appointing a commission if told in advance the status of members who are to be appointed," the Premier said. "We must accept the responsibility and ride or fall on our decision. This is nothing new. It is a principle which underlies all such matters. The Government is not prepared to support an amendment which calls for an appointment which ties our hands."

Liberal Leader H. C. Nixon supported the Premier's stand, declaring that the heads of the Government must be left free. He deplored the growing number of Government commissions and said he would like to see some abolished instead of new ones being created. He recognized, however, that the Government had a mandate to bring in such legislation regarding the forests of Ontario.

C.C.F. 'ASSIST' DEFEATS MOVE BY HEPBURN

The C.C.F. Opposition lined up with the Drew Government last night to defeat an amendment sponsored by Mitchell F. Hepburn which would have had the effect of giving a six-month hoist to the Optometry Act amendment. This amendment, bitterly opposed by Mr. Hepburn the previous day, enlarges the Board of Optometry from three to five members, gives the board power to regulate advertising of spectacles and eye-glasses and extends the disciplinary powers of the organization.

Two Progressive Conservative members, Dr. Hobbs Taylor (Huron) and T. A. Murphy (Toronto-Beaches), voted with the Liberal group, as did the two Labor-Progressives A. A. MacLeod (Toronto-Belwoods) and J. B. Salsberg (Toronto-St. Andrew).

The Hepburn amendment was defeated by a vote of 64 to 19, and the main motion to give third reading to the bill was carried by 65 to 19, the extra vote coming from Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell, who was absent when the first vote was taken.

Introduced by Porter.

The Optometry Act amendment was not a Government-sponsored measure. It was introduced by a Government member, Dana H. Porter (P.C., Toronto-St. George). Mr. Hepburn made no move to oppose the bill during committee stage consideration, but when Speaker Stewart put the motion for third reading he rose and presented his motion "that the bill be not now read a third time, but be read a third time this day six months hence."

"This is an amendment to the motion?" asked the Speaker.

"No, it is not," replied Mr. Hepburn. "It is a motion. After 18 years Parliamentary experience, I think I know when a motion is in order."

Overruled.

The Speaker said there could not be two motions before the House and ruled that it be accepted as an amendment.

The Optometry Act amendment came before the Legal Bills Committee yesterday morning and was reported after one amendment was made. This amendment clarified the section dealing with regulating the advertising of spectacles and eye-glasses, the advertising of prices and the advertising of the terms upon which spectacles and eye-glasses may be purchased.

It was Mr. Hepburn's contention at second reading on Tuesday that the bill restored a racket in the field of sale of spectacles.