

March 16

Attack on Bracken Is 'Contemptible,' Drew's Reaction

Premier George A. Drew in the Legislature yesterday condemned as "contemptible" a personal attack made on Progressive Conservative Leader John Bracken by a Liberal member, Ross A. McEwing, Wellington North. His reference was to Mr. Bracken's criticism of the reinforcement situation.

Mr. McEwing said, in opening his contribution to the Throne Speech debate: "Bracken has developed all the earmarks of a Nazi propaganda agent, stirring up trouble in the last few months."

Instantly on his feet, Premier Drew indignantly protested: "That is a matter entirely outside this Chamber" and added: "The man he is referring to in such contemptible terms has three sons overseas."

"Those are the facts," replied Mr. McEwing.

"Which marks you for what you are," the Premier shot back.

Mr. McEwing said: "Anybody who spreads propaganda that is of advantage to opposing nations is doing an injury to the Allies and to Canada."

Charges Patronage

He went on to criticize the Government for alleged political patronage and for dismissal of an examiner of drivers' permits in Guelph because, he said, he had spoken well of Mr. McEwing. He was critical also of the accomplishments of Government committees and urged the necessity of the Agriculture Committee meeting this session so that it could draw to the attention of the Federal Government many things that could and should be done.

The stock yards had not improved since the Government took them over last fall, he complained. Neither speculation nor price manipulation had been removed. Provincial Treasurer Leslie Frost reminded him that the stock yards is under a board of farmers, including the head of the United Farmers Co-operative Co., and that blame, if any, for conditions rested with the farmers and not the Government.

Former Member Hits C.C.F.

The C.C.F. Opposition came in for a pounding from Leslie Hancock (Ind. Farmer-Labor) who recently left the C.C.F. Party. Urging that the Opposition groups should unite against the Drew Government, he said he hoped Mr. Jolliffe would accept the challenge to form a Government if the opportunity offered, and then blamed the Opposition for the existing disunity among Opposition groups.

"The disunity of the Opposition is the direct outcome of C.C.F. policy," he declared. "The present political trend is a direct result of the authoritarian views of C.C.F. leadership." That was why he and two Manitoba members had been expelled from the party.

"The brain-trusters," he said, "are like the cowbird in the nest, throwing out all and sundry who don't agree with it. The long-term policy of throwing out progressive people is bearing bitter fruit and you have only yourselves to blame." He told Mr. Jolliffe that if he formed a Government he would have to govern "with the co-operation of the other elements in Opposition or become responsible for precipitating an election in wartime that the people do not want."