

March 20

Affirms Mr. King Caustic Over That Man Hepburn

The score is now two to one against Prime Minister Mackenzie King with respect to what the Prime Minister said to Labor Minister Charles Daley about Mitchell F. Hepburn more than a year and a half ago

Last week Mr. Daley told the Legislature, in the course of a Throne Speech address, that, while visiting Ottawa shortly after the Drew Government took office, he met a "high ranking official . . . about my size, stout, with a round face like mine." This "high ranking official" was Mr. King, Mr. Daley admitted when questioned by Mr. Hepburn.

According to Mr. Daley, the Prime Minister asked him how he got

along "with that man Hepburn." Mr. Daley made a noncommittal reply, and Mr. King went on: "He is a terrible man. He used to get so mad when he would tear me apart that I would never answer him. He has done more to put the Liberal Party where it is today than any other man in the country."

Yesterday in the Legislature, H. C. Nixon (Lib., Brant) provided the sequel to the incident. Mr. Nixon said he had wired Mr. King and informed him of the remarks attributed to him by Mr. Daley. On Saturday he received the following wire from Mr. King:

"I thank you for your night letter of March 16 just received. I should be obliged if you would deny unequivocally every statement made by the Hon. Charles Daley as reported in your wire to me. I am not accustomed to speaking to any one, let alone to strangers and political opponents, in the manner described by Mr. Daley." (Signed) "W. L. Mackenzie King."

It was left to Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell to break the one-one deadlock — Mr. King's word against Mr. Daley's.

"I was present on that occasion and am able to verify that it was said, and more," said Mr. Blackwell. That was all the Attorney-General said, but it was enough for the Government members. They banged their desks with enthusiasm.

Mr. Nixon said nothing. Mr. Hepburn, his deskmate, said nothing. Mr. Blackwell didn't say what the "more" was.