

Blackwell Denies Forest Engineers Board 'Tory Plot'

Third reading of the Government bill setting up a board of examiners and providing for the registration of forest engineers was postponed in the Legislature yesterday when it was discovered that the bill, as amended, had not been reprinted. Opposition to giving third reading came from Liberal House Leader M. F. Hepburn, who saw in the setting up of a board of examiners a "Tory political plot." He moved, seconded by H. C. Nixon (Brant), that the bill be given a "six months' noist," which is tantamount to killing it.

Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell accepted Mr. Hepburn's challenge and quoted the Optometry Act passed by the former Liberal Government as containing exactly the same provisions complained of by the Liberal House Leader.

Called "Arrant Nonsense"

"This is all arrant nonsense about the board being a Tory political setup," said Mr. Blackwell. "In 1936 there was an Optometry Act passed by the Government of which the member for Elgin was the head. It had a three-man board appointed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council. I never heard that the Opposition of that day used the highly prejudicial language about this act that the member for Elgin used in connection with the forestry bill. The creation of a board of this kind is the typical kind of procedure adopted in Ontario since time immemorial."

Mr. Blackwell went on to say that the Optometry Act provided penalties for infractions of the regulations, just as did the forestry engineers legislation, yet the member for Elgin criticized these provisions.

"It is high time legislation was regarded on its merit and not on the basis of insinuation and innuendo," declared the Attorney-General.

Not Withdrawing Bill

Lands and Forests Minister W. G. Thompson said he had conferred with half a dozen people who were opposed to the bill, and declared that, if their suggested changes were incorporated in the bill, it would have placed every one who wished to practice forestry under the domination of an immature organization. The bill would not be withdrawn, he said.

Mr. Blackwell pointed out that the guiding principle in the drafting of the bill was to safeguard a profession which was not fully developed and place it under Government direction rather than leave it under the influence of an association which was immature and not fully representative of the industry.

The Government was under the impression that the amended bill had been reprinted, Premier George Drew said. Under the circumstances the bill would be allowed to stand over until printed copies were in the hands of the members.

Adult Education Board Is Formed, Drew Announces

Creation of an Adult Education Board composed of representatives of Ontario universities under the chairmanship of Dr. W. J. Dunlop of University of Toronto, was announced in the Legislature yesterday by Premier George A. Drew. The board will plan for adult education in Ontario and will work

with all voluntary agencies, the Premier said.

Stressing the importance of physical education in this adult program, the Premier said that Sqdn. Ldr. J. K. Tett, DFC, of Toronto, had been appointed



Sqdn. Ldr. Tett

director of physical fitness in the physical and health education branch of the Department of Education.

"He has the highest possible qualifications for this work," Mr. Drew said. "Sqdn. Ldr. Tett is still attached to the RCAF, where he has been doing similar organization work throughout the whole of Canada since his return from operational duties. He will be released from his duties with the RCAF within the next two weeks."

Premier Drew expressed gratification that the Province would have the services of an exceptionally capable director in the new education post who had served Canada overseas. The Government, he said, had felt that "we could not put a man in charge of such a program who did not possess overseas experience."

"Great Importance"

The Premier said that adult education "is of greater importance than ever before in view of all the unsettling conditions of the war years." Education in itself "is a continuing process," he said.

"The board will plan for adult education in rural and urban communities, particularly in Northern and Northwestern Ontario which require the immediate provision of all facilities that can possibly be arranged," the Premier said. "These efforts will not attempt to supplant existing activities, nor to impose any fixed pattern of adult education."

Aid New Canadians

"The main function of the board will be to encourage communities and voluntary agencies to develop the best type of adult education for their local needs, and to act as a coordinating body between the various local and voluntary organizations," the Premier told the House. "Adult education for new Canadians will be a particularly important part of the program."

Members named to the board are: Dr. W. J. Dunlop, University of Toronto, chairman; Principal R. C. Wallace, Queen's University; President W. S. Fox, Western University; Professor C. H. Stearn, McMaster University; Dr. P. Cornellier, Ottawa University; Dr. G. I. Christie, O.A.C., Guelph; Dr. H. M. Tory, Carleton College, and Dr. E. A. Corbett of the Canadian Association for Adult Education. C. F. Cannon of the Department of Education and C. Graham of the Department of Agriculture, will act as liaison officers between those departments and the board.

Outstanding Swimmer

Sqdn. Ldr. Tett, outstanding swimmer and diver and member of Toronto Central YMCA's Leader Corps before he enlisted in July, 1940, completed 33 bomber operations as a pilot attached to the RAF.

Halfway through his tour, he was forced to ditch his crippled bomber in the English Channel and spent 13 hours with his crew drifting in a dinghy. In a later attack on Essen when one engine failed he flew and bombed the target and got the aircraft safely home.

These points were mentioned in his DFC citation which stressed: "He has at all times displayed great devotion to duty."

Tett was mentioned in despatches for his work in developing Gen Clubs in the RAF and he did the same kind of work for the RCAF when he returned to Canada two years ago. Gen Clubs were get-togethers at which students could ask questions and better assimilate the business of flying and fighting.