

PARTY LEADERS MAKE ATTACK ON DOMINION'S WAR EFFORTS

Hepburn, Drew Launch
Criticism in House
at Toronto

INEFFICIENCY CITED

Toronto, Jan. 17.—(CP)—
The Ontario legislature turned to-day to consideration of the government's bill for extension of the terms of municipal officials to two years, after a broadside by leaders of both major parties against conduct of the war effort by the federal administration.

Charges Inefficiency

Lieut.-Col. George A. Drew, Conservative leader, roused the house yesterday after a succession of quiet sittings by attacking the Dominion government's "inefficiency" in prosecution of the war, and his words were echoed and enlarged upon by Premier Mitchell Hepburn.

The legislation governing municipal terms, called the local Government Extension act, was brought in before the leaders trained their guns yesterday by Hon. Eric Cross, minister of municipal affairs. One-year extension of the terms of municipal officers in office on February 1, 1941, is provided in the bill, but electors in any municipality may vote themselves out of the act's provisions and retain annual elections.

Colonel Drew alleged delay in equipping Canadian forces for war and said the man in the street was talking of the federal government's slackness. He said there should be no pretence of satisfaction with the war effort.

Must Keep Unity

"The time for silence has passed," said Colonel Drew. "There is no reason why this war should be waged in secrecy as though it were some shameful thing. Never was there greater unity in Canada than there is to-day. That unity must not be destroyed by nerveless indecision."

"Glaring inaccuracy" was charged to Prime Minister Mackenzie King by Colonel Drew. On October 27, Mr. King said Canada was preparing for war weeks before it broke out, the Conservative leader asserted, but even as Mr. King spoke there were men who had been in the army for eight weeks who hadn't been supplied with clothing and other essentials.

"Those who knew the facts kept silent in the hope that there were men in his cabinet who would force him to act," said Colonel Drew. "That hope has not been fulfilled."

Fears For Future

Premier Hepburn also alleged delay in equipping the troops. Men were given "underwear not fit to put on a human being, footwear that wouldn't last two weeks."

"This war is going to break out on a colossal scale, on a scale hitherto unknown," said the Premier. "There will be a great demand for men and we're going to commit the colossal blunder of sending half-trained men to battle, aviators not half-trained will face Germans who have trained for years. The men who do it will answer some day, regardless of radio speeches. No one is listening to that bunk. There are too many soldiers around to tell the truth."

Ontario will campaign in 1940 to attract United States tourists, Mr. Hepburn announced. A selling point will be the favourable exchange rates on United States funds. Prospective visitors will be told their money will buy more in Ontario than at home. A new director is to be appointed for the Ontario tourist and publicity bureau.

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