

"Mackenzie King Has Never Done Duty By His Country He Never Will--It Is Not In Him" --- Premier Hephburn

Legislature Censures Ottawa For Weak Wartime Policies Ten Followers Bolt Hephburn

M.P.'s Absent Themselves as Legislature Registers 44 to 10 Conviction Against King Government--Hephburn Threatens To Quit if House Fails To Support Resolution

At the bar of the Ontario Parliament the Federal Government stood indicted, and then convicted, yesterday of failure to prosecute the war in a manner satisfactory to the people of this Province.

Premier Mitchell F. Hephburn and Opposition Leader George Drew joined with several others in preferring the charge against the Mackenzie King Government. Members of the Ontario Legislature voted 44 to 10 to register a conviction.

One of the most surprising and dramatic situations which has ever developed in the Legislature climaxed the barrage which has been rained on the Dominion Government's war effort ever since the Assembly opened last week. Provincial affairs have been overshadowed. Premier Hephburn has gone to the length of defending the Conservative Opposition Leader against the attacks of Liberal members.

And then yesterday a minor discussion mushroomed into a major "incident" as Mr. Hephburn sensed that some of his followers resented his plain contempt for the King administration. Moving with the lightning action which has marked his career, the Premier suddenly rose in the House to stake his political future and the very life of his Government on popular acceptance of the attitude he has adopted.

THREATENS TO RESIGN

Frequently during the debate, which commenced in the mildest manner, the Premier had interjected ever more angry statements and the situation which had been building up through the afternoon abruptly and surprisingly reached Mr. Hephburn rose to announce that unless the House supported him and Col. Drew he was prepared to resign.

"If the House says I'm wrong I'll quit," the Premier declared and in a few minutes the division bells rang. Whips left the House to discuss the matter and Liberal M.P.'s gathered in groups to discuss this new crisis. Then the Whips, led by the Sergeant-at-Arms returned to make their bow to the Speaker--an acknowledgment that all who wanted to vote were in their seats.

The issue was a vote on the Premier's resolution of censure of the Mackenzie King Government's war preparations. He had conceived the idea in the heat of debate; despatched a note to the Clerk of the House, who had returned to him the official form of the resolution which read:

RESOLUTION OF CENSURE

"That this House has heard with interest the reports made by the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition of the result of their visit to Ottawa to discuss war measures with the national government and this House hereby endorses the statements made by the two members in question and joins with them in regretting that the Federal Government at Ottawa has made so little effort to prosecute Canada's duty in the war in the vigorous manner the people of Canada desire to see."

Seconding the Hephburn resolution was big, quiet-mannered Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, also president of the Ontario Liberal Association.

CABINET IN ACCORD

When the clerk and his assistant called the roll the Premier was the first to vote. Then his cabinet rose in agreement. Along the line of Liberal members the names were called until Angus Dickson, the Liberal member for Perth was reached. Mr. Dickson sat still for the "yeas" were being called and he

in the House at Ottawa and I know it." Then Premier Hephburn introduced his resolution.

The whole "incident" had its origin with the perfectly innocent complaint of William Duckworth, the Conservative member for Dovercourt, who is renowned more for his plain common sense than his choice of English.

PROTESTS WHEAT SALE

Mr. Duckworth rose as the House assembled to complain about a newspaper story that 1,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat were being shipped to Russia from Winnipeg. "Is it possible," he asked incredulously, "that we have a government which allows the sale of wheat to Russia--particularly an ally of Germany, which is preparing for a spring offensive against our boys on the Western Front?"

As Mr. Duckworth declared his belief that this wheat going to Russia would be sold to Germany, he demanded "What's this all about?" "Go down to Ottawa," suggested Joe Habel, French-Canadian Liberal member for North Cochrane.

"You mind your own business," snapped Mr. Duckworth, as he continued. "If we have men in this country who sell wheat to Russia then they should be interned as traitors to the British Empire."

HEPBURN AGREES

Mr. Habel's voice rumbled something but before he could make himself clear, Premier Hephburn took the wind out of his sails by agreeing with Mr. Duckworth.

"Although the matter is beyond the jurisdiction of this parliament, I, with the honorable member for Dovercourt, deplore the fact that Canadian wheat is going to Russia," the Premier said, "I also deplore the recent sale of wheat to Russia. It is possible that within a few months Britain may be at war with Russia and those very ice-breakers may be used to keep Russian ports open for her submarines and war ships."

Another matter said he had still another matter to draw to the attention of the House. Some sections of the press, he said, had questioned the right of members of the Legis-

lature to speak with respect to Canada's war effort. He reminded the House that both he and the leader of the Opposition were members of the Organization of Resources Committee appointed to co-operate with the Federal Government.

CHARGES LACK OF CLOTHES

"We say, and perfectly rightly, that no co-operation has been extended to us by the Dominion Government. These press attacks are ill-considered. I don't often complain about the press, but I am most annoyed by an editorial in the Globe and Mail, which is apparently intended to be facetious.

"It may be funny for the Globe and Mail to write such an article as this, but it is not funny for a man to give up a responsible job, such as our Honorable Minister, Mr. Campbell, who is most annoyed by an editorial in the Globe and Mail, which is apparently intended to be facetious.

"The Premier said that his colleague, visiting his home at Christmas, had worn only a raincoat since he was unable to get cloth for an overcoat, and he was in active service, that raincoat in January," Mr. Hephburn added.

"In our sanitaria to-day, I say respectfully, we are admitting many men with active T.B. as result of not being supplied with proper and adequate clothing and bedding," he went on. "Some time ago I suggested that the editorial in the Globe and Mail even referred to his office bathroom and a stream-lined, fur-lined bathtub.

"A young man go into my office and my bathroom and if he can't find a bathtub in it, I'll eat it," he declared, in a hat.

NEAR RIOT

Referring again to conditions at the R.C.A.P. training school at St. Thomas, Premier Hephburn maintained that it was a pitiful sight to see the Air Force men training without uniforms and equipment.

"There was a near riot in that institution not so long ago because of conditions under which these men had to live," he revealed.

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"Mr. Habel returned to the debate with charges that Mr. Stewart was narrow-minded and was not any man to call anyone a narrow party man.

"LEAVE IT TO OTTAWA"

Mr. Habel continued his tirade to are made that are at variance with the decent rules of procedure."

WROTE TO PREMIER KING

Then, in defense of his own conduct, Mr. Hephburn wrote to Premier King about Ottawa's administration.

Col. Drew revealed for the first time that when Col. Drew went to Ottawa with the Lieutenant Governor and myself he forgot every political consideration, I forgot I can't?" interjected Mr. Roebuck.

"By all means go," agreed the Premier, "but don't inflict on us another nine-hour speech."

SUGGESTS OTHERS TALK

Mr. Roebuck thought the members of the House ought to listen to others besides the Premier and the leader of the Opposition. He declared they talked about the Dominion Govern-

ment who should have made all sorts of guns but they could not do that in four months.

"Do we want to have another Ross rifle trouble?" he asked.

"Or Bren guns either. They are not issued yet," interjected Col. Drew.

"Do you think any sincere or capable man could carry on better than the government of 20 years ago," said Mr. Roebuck.

Mr. Roebuck suggested that it would be better to call the debate off and leave everything to Ottawa and to go on and deal with matters in the province's own jurisdiction. The province has labor, industrial and financial issues to combat without going off their own range.

Hon. Leopold Macaulay didn't think that there was anything to boast about the war loan being over-subscribed due to the fact people had not really any confidence in the Mackenzie government but they wanted to win the war.

PEOPLE WANT ACTION

"This country is not interested in speeches. They want action," said Mr. Macaulay in reply to Mr. Roebuck, who wanted to know what the people were in mind speaking. Mr. Macaulay declared that he deplored party politics and would like to see elections done away with during the war.

It was at this point that Premier Hephburn declared his intention to test the strength of his position and declared his intention to the House of submitting the resolution.

Just then, J. J. Glass, St. Andrew's, declared there were two sides to an argument.

"This House is not in a position to state all the facts that have been brought out so that we can vote in an intelligible manner," said Mr. Glass. "I know of facts that show statements made here are not correct and they have been stated with malice aforethought.

"I don't think that we in this legislature as representatives can sit here in judgment on the efforts of the Federal Government. If we fail in our duty the people will pass judgment. I don't want to vote on this motion and I ask to be excused."

Mr. Glass then left the House. Mr. Roebuck attempted to speak on a question of order but was overruled by the Speaker and the vote was taken.

Leave War To Ottawa Liberal Tells Hephburn

Premier Mitchell F. Hephburn staked his political future on criticism of Canada's war effort in the Ontario Legislature yesterday, but Charles G. Fletcher, Liberal (South Essex), declared his intention to resign if the legislature majority failed to see eye to eye with him. And in the speech the South Essex member had decided: "Leave to Ottawa the things that are Ottawa's, and let us concern ourselves here with the things that are Ontario's."

"Since this session opened we have heard a great deal of talk in this House about war," said Mr. Fletcher. "May I state that, in my opinion, we ought not to unduly labor that question here."

HAS FAITH IN M.P.'S
"The British North America Act assigned the question of national defense to the Federal authority," he went on (applause). "One week from to-day Parliament will meet at MacTavie (Middlesex South) Baker (York North) Armstrong (Parry Sound) Campbell (Kent East) Dickson (Perth) Roebuck (Bellwoods) Croome (Rainy River) Habel (Cochrane North) Fairbank (Lambton East) MacKay (Hamilton East)--10.

Absentees

These were not present: Glass (St. Andrew), who openly boiled; King (Wellington South); Bethune (Wellington); Conacher (Brantford); Duncan (London); Nixon (Temiskaming); Fraser Hunter (St. Patrick); Anderson (Welland); Fletcher (Essex South); Trotter (Essex North); Haines (Lincoln); Cair (Northumberland); Miller (Algonia-Manitoulin); Belanger (Prescott); Robertson (Huron); Bruce; Heenan (Kenora); Campbell (Sault Ste. Marie), on active service; Kennedy (Peel); Oliver (Grey South); Cox (Port Arthur); Croll (Windsor-Walkerville), on active service; Hagey (Brantford); Bradley (Renfrew North); Elliott (Peterboro); Downer (Dufferin-Simcoe); Doucette (Lanark); Dunbar (Ottawa South); Spence (Fort William); Gallagher (Cochrane South); Cholette (Nipissing); Begin (Russell); McGillivray (Glengarry); Cooper (Sudbury); McEwing (Wellington North)--34.

Note--Mr. Speaker Clark was absent through illness. R. Patterson (North Grey) was in the chair as North Speaker as I therefore did not vote.

UNITED IN CONDEMNATION OF W. L. M. KING'S WAR EFFORT



Premier Hephburn



Col. George Drew, Conservative leader

training school they'd be still wasting their time.

"As a matter of fact in order to get a room for technical training they had to take the machinery of the much needed laundry for the purpose, although the officer commanding suggested as long ago as last September that a temporary structure be built for the purpose," he said.

"I say that the Dominion government is not prosecuting this war in the way people desire. All the propaganda issuing from the Globe and Mail, the radio and the Toronto Star is not going to put at rest the feelings of the people of this Dominion."

NO APOLOGY, SAYS DREW

Opposition Leader Drew then took the floor and emphasized that both he and Premier Hephburn had made the same mistake in their remarks based on the fact both were members of the Organization of Resources Committee, a committee designed to make available to Canada's war effort the vast resources of Ontario.

"I am involving every man, woman and child in Canada and it was anything but 'cheap,' as the Toronto Star had suggested, to criticize when the Dominion Government was failing to do anything, even to meeting the peace time requirements of the country."

He repeated that "we have no reason to apologize for bringing this matter into the House."

Since the war broke out, Col. Drew said he had made only one speech which could be interpreted as political and that was before a semi-private audience. He had talked of air training--and it is high time those things are discussed more freely."

When Finance Minister Ralston spoke of the equipment of the army, Col. Drew said he had "no objection" in saying Col. Ralston either didn't know the facts or he had given an unduly favorable impression of the situation. At the same time, he recognized Col. Ralston was a busy man and probably wholly unaware of the disastrous condition in the armed forces."

Col. Fraser Hunter--"Unarmed forces."

"I want the members of this House to feel free to state publicly what they think of this critical situation we have to-day."

Mr. Hephburn recalled the "shake-

up" in the British Government in the early days of the last war as the result of the "wait-and-see" policy.

"The people rose in their wrath--they paid no attention to sheets like the Toronto Star (he threw a copy of that paper to the floor beside him). This reflects the kind of man the publisher is, and the kind of man in the presence of cabinet members and tells me he'll hound me from office until he drives me from office."

"I had the pleasure of telling him to get out of my office. I would like to have told him to go to a place where he had no business, and I told him I was running the Government."

"The men and women who had the courage to defy public sentiment in Great Britain were the men and women who saved Great Britain."

"I join heartily with my friend the leader of the Conservative party and I am thankful that a man of his calibre is leader of the Opposition."

HEPBURN UPHOLDS DREW

Morgan Baker Liberal, North York, maintained that the vitriolic speech of the leader of the Opposition on Tuesday will do more to break down the morale of the Canadian people than German shells and guns."

Premier Hephburn interjected with the comment: "I'd like you to associate me with the man of the Opposition. If my speech wasn't vitriolic, it wasn't because I didn't mean it to be."

"Yours wasn't vitriolic, but the leader of the Opposition's was," Mr. Baker said. He went on to refer to the activities of the Veterans' Allowance Board, claiming that in two months all but 3,000 of 42,000 applications had received final disposition.

Hon. Leopold Macaulay cut in with the comment: "But not paid."

Mr. Baker suggested that a committee of the House be appointed to get in direct contact with responsible authorities at Ottawa and study what has been done toward prosecution of the war. He defended the Mackenzie King government, claiming that Canada had been preparing for war for the past four years.

YEAS LIBERALS

Premier Hephburn Kirby (Oxford) Dewar (Exford) Stewart (Hamilton-Wentworth) Simpson (Simcoe Centre) Conant (Ontario) Nixon (Brant) Ledue (East Ottawa) Cross (Haldimand-Norfolk) Smith (Waterloo-South) Murray (Renfrew South) Blakelock (Halton) Strachan (St. George's) Gordon (Kent West) Houck (Niagara Falls) Smith (Greenville-Dundas) Macaulay (York South) Kelly (Woodbine) Guthrie (Lambton West) Lampont (St. David's) Sinclair (Bruce) Ballantyne (Huron) Chaille (Greenville-Dundas) Macaulay (York South) Baird (High Park) Duckworth (Dovercourt) Acres (Carleton) Elgie (Woodbine) Murphy (Beaches) Stewart (Hamilton) Arnold (Hastings West) Kidd (Kingston) Reynolds (Leeds) Summerville (Riverdale) J. DeC. Hephburn (Prince Edward) Lennox--44.

CONSERVATIVES

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Stewart Charges Mr. King Carries Politics Too Far

In answer to Mr. Baker's comments, W. J. Stewart, Conservative (Parkdale), told the House: "When I have to stand up and defend my party, I will do so to the best of my ability. I am happy to know that Premier Hephburn and the Conservative party leader, Col. Drew, are perfectly in agreement that their duty is the country first, the party second."

"I believe I can interpret public opinion fairly well and I feel sure that the mind of the people of Canada is concentrated on the one thing

that 'Win the War' should be the policy of the country to-day," he went on.

Mr. Stewart intimated that Prime Minister Mackenzie King was carrying politics too far when he sought to take credit for the over-subscription of Canada's War Loan.

"Let him try to get money for party funds and see how rapidly he gets it," said the Parkdale member, continuing Premier King.

"He'll get more than you," cut in J. A. Habel, Liberal (Cochrane North). "If I was as narrow a party man

suggest that "the way the Opposition leader talks it's a wonder they don't give him the chief Allied command. The way he talks you would think that he was the only man who could think the war."

The North Cochrane member believed that the war problems ought to have been left to Ottawa. "I can't see where we are heading for with regard to Ontario's problems if we keep on talking about the war situation," he said.

Speaking for French and English Canadians alike, Mr. Habel said he was confident that "everyone was ready to do his share" but he could see nothing to be gained by continuation of the discussion.

Arthur W. Roebuck, one-time Attorney-General, member for Bellwoods and Liberal nominee in the Federal riding of Trinity, said he had not intended to speak but he was "apprehensive lest his silence might mean consent."

The previous addresses, he said, appeared to him to be "partisan attacks on men charged with the responsibility of conducting Canada's war effort."

He described the criticism that had been voiced as "unjust, inconsiderate and mistaken" and he suggested that "possibly the gentleman (obviously Col. Drew) is much more concerned with vacating the Prime Ministership of Canada in the interests of the Conservative party than in forwarding the true interests of Canada."

COL. DREW OBJECTS

Col. Drew was prompt to object. "I am not so much concerned with what the member says but I would like to remind him that there is a rule in this House against imputing improper motives."

Quickly Premier Hephburn came to the aid of the Opposition leader. "I am the honorable leader of the Opposition. I don't believe, in sincerity ought to be called into question."

The pro-Speaker (Rolland Patterson, North Grey) ruled that he had allowed the debate to proceed thus far because the Premier had asked for free expression of opinion, unless it was continued on a high level he said it would be closed off.

"Then," said Mr. Roebuck, "perhaps I can say that the purpose of the member's remarks was much more intended to further the Conservative interests."

But Col. Drew would not accept such evasion. "I say, Mr. Speaker, that my motives may not be impugned."

Biting Hephburn Comment Is Disputed By Roebuck

Again Mr. Hephburn was behind the Conservative leader. "I agree, Mr. Speaker, when the member for Bellwoods was making anti-war speeches in the leader of the Opposition speaking in France."

"I won't stand here and take anything like that," responded Mr. Roebuck. "I never made an anti-war speech. I have as much love of my country as has the Premier and perhaps more."

However, Mr. Roebuck agreed to withdraw any imputation of Col. Drew's motives but he added, "Perhaps then, the trend of his remarks is in the direction of the interests of the Conservative party."

But Col. Drew would not let him get away with the further evasion of Speaker's ruling. "I insist," the Conservative leader said, "that there must be no imputation of motives."

"I withdraw motive and purpose and say trend," continued Mr. Roebuck as he referred to Col. Drew's statement that the Red Cross had to supply troops with socks. "I think that remark was intended to warn the cold feet of the Conservative party more than the cold feet of soldiers," the Bellwoods member said.

You ought to know about cold feet," snapped Col. Drew as he protested that he had no intention of waiving the rules when "suggestions

are made that are at variance with the decent rules of procedure."

Then, in defense of his own conduct, Mr. Hephburn wrote to Premier King about Ottawa's administration.

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"By all means go," agreed the Premier, "but don't inflict on us another nine-hour speech."

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Mr. Roebuck suggested that it would be better to call the debate off and leave everything to Ottawa and to go on and deal with matters in the province's own jurisdiction. The province has labor, industrial and financial issues to combat without going off their own range.

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King Expected To Reply To Hephburn In Commons

Dodged Vote



J. J. GLASS (Lib., St. Andrew's) said he could not express an intelligent opinion on the facts before him and therefore dashed from the Chamber just before the vote was taken.

Ontario, Jan. 19--The early days of the coming session of Parliament probably will be featured by a statement from Prime Minister Mackenzie King concerning the motion of the Ontario Legislature criticizing the Dominion Government's war effort.

The capital learned of Premier Hephburn's renewal of his attacks on the Federal administration with considerable interest but it was viewed comparatively calmly on Parliament and scarcely ranked as a political sensation.

But shortly after Parliament opens next Thursday the matter likely will be aired again. The Prime Minister told newsmen last night that he believed Parliament was the proper place to discuss the Government's war policy and "I shall reserve until Parliament is in session what I may have to say on that subject."

Until Parliament convenes, Mr. Mackenzie King continued, "the Government does not intend to permit Canada's war effort in the province's own jurisdiction. The province has labor, industrial and financial issues to combat without going off their own range."

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