

### The Hepburn-Drew Attack on Mr. King

It must be evident to all by this time that Mr. Hepburn's wartime truce with Mr. King was meaningless, and that his personal grudge against the federal premier still outweighs all other considerations. Col. Drew, as Conservative leader in Ontario, and mentioned as a possible Conservative leader in the Dominion if anything should happen to Dr. Manion, is in a somewhat different position. It is perhaps natural that he should succumb to the temptation to use the legislature as a sounding board for attacks upon the war efforts of the Liberal administration at Ottawa. He goes further in this regard than Dr. Manion has gone, Dr. Manion being more familiar with federal affairs than he, and having, too, as Dominion Conservative leader, a sense of responsibility with respect to them.

Messrs. Hepburn and Drew have no such responsibility. So these two, for their separate reasons, join in attacks upon the Ottawa ministry whose the responsibility is. It is so easy for them to criticize—in a sense so cheap to criticize as they do, when they have no responsibility themselves, and when the prime minister and his colleagues at Ottawa are up to their eyes in war work. It is they, not Messrs. Hepburn and Drew, who have to answer to the country for the success of Canada's war effort.

Messrs. Hepburn and Drew have their own sphere of usefulness in Ontario, and Ontario's affairs need all their attention. But Mr. Hepburn, having just been forced by public opinion to beat a retreat from his original council term extension proposals, would, no doubt, like to turn the public's thought in another direction. He would be pleased to have Col. Drew join him in his grudge-fight against Premier King and thus reduce the time devoted to such blunders of the Hepburn administration as the piling up of a huge provincial debt beyond anything Ontario has ever known before.

Since the war began there have been many attacks launched against the federal administration. And when the prime minister and his colleagues have taken time off from their war work to answer these attacks, the answers have been convincing and the critics have been routed. Canada is making a splendid contribution to the war—a contribution which is satisfactory to the British authorities, and which, we believe, will be entirely to the credit of the government when the history of the war finally comes to be written.

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