

## TAX HYDRO LANDS UNDER NEW BILL

### Another Measure Gives Effect to Recent Vote in Municipalities

Legislation to tax the lands of the Hydro-electric Commission, but not buildings or improvements, was introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. I. B. Lucas. This would apply to a good many localities, but particularly in the Niagara district, where large portions of school sections are taken by the Hydro. The new taxes would mean a good deal to the municipalities.

Another clause of the bill allowed villages, just as towns and cities, to form a commission, and also gives a township the right to go into distribution work direct, instead of sections of the township. It is also provided that a local commission desiring to make improvements to their system shall not issue debentures until the Provincial Commission has approved of them. The purpose was to see that the profits of the Hydro are used for Hydro purposes. There had been pooling arrangements in some municipalities. It was intended to make each public utility stand on its own foundation.

#### Giving Effect to Vote.

Another measure, introduced by Hon. Mr. Lucas, dealing with Hydro development at Niagara, gives effect to the vote taken in municipalities last election, by which the Hydro Commission is authorized to acquire power plants. Another clause continues the controller clause of last year's act. Mr. Lucas said the Auditor had been at work for about a year and was expected to soon report.

#### Purchase of Plants.

Mr. Rowell asked if the legislation gave the Hydro Commission full authority to make the development at Niagara and purchase existing development for the benefit of the municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Lucas said that was the effect. It was statutory authority confirming what had been given by order in Council.

#### Hamilton Road Changes.

Hon. Mr. Macdiarmid introduced several amendments to the Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission act. One clause inserted at the request of Hamilton authorizes the Commission to change the location of the road, so as to join up with the Hamilton scheme when decided. Another clause deals with the railway situation in Mimico and New Toronto. This amendment will give the Commission full powers in regard to laying down the pavement. Another point is that Magistrates will have jurisdiction over the entire road. This has been asked for by the Ontario Motor League.

## ONTARIO ESTIMATES EXCEED \$10,000,000

### Increase of \$600,000—Summary of Main Votes

Estimated expenditure of the Province of Ontario for the financial year ending October 1st, 1918, aggregates \$10,225,247, as compared with \$9,636,741 for the year ending Oct. 31st, 1917.

Following is the summary for 1918:

Civil Government .....	\$1,048,150.00
Legislation .....	325,680.00
Administration of justice .....	799,030.00
Education .....	2,342,804.50
Public Institutions	
Maintenance .....	1,900,890.00
Agriculture .....	907,542.00
Colonization and Immigration .....	95,000.00
Hospitals and Charities .....	550,895.51
Maintenance and Repairs of Government Buildings .....	232,848.00
Public Building .....	158,150.00
Public Works .....	84,800.00
Colonization Roads .....	87,000.00
Department of Public Highways .....	65,020.00
Game and Fisheries .....	140,300.00
Attorney-General's Department, Miscellaneous .....	175,200.00
Treasury Department, Miscellaneous .....	69,517.00
Provincial Secretary's Department, Miscellaneous .....	284,970.00
Charges on Crown Lands .....	808,350.00
Refunds Accounts .....	94,500.00
Miscellaneous Expenditure .....	47,600.00

### Hope to Close Session of Legislature This Week

In the Legislature yesterday Premier Hearst indicated that there were "bright" hopes of getting the legislative business through before Easter. He submitted a resolution that beginning to-day there be morning sessions of the House, and that any committee that has not concluded its business be permitted to continue its sittings concurrently with the sittings of the House. The Premier let it be understood that it would be arranged that there would be no contentious matters discussed in the House while the committees were sitting.

Mr. Rowell said all the members would be glad if the business could properly close before Easter, but at the same time if they could not give due consideration to the important measures by that time the House should continue its sittings until it could give due consideration to important legislation.

Premier Hearst—Quite so.