

this session. He asked that the bill be withdrawn.

Important items in the Statute Amendments Act which were adopted were the extension of the moratorium for a year, and the city of Toronto's request for authority to tax mortgages one-tenth of one per cent. so as to enable the Registry Office to be self-supporting.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) urged that his bill respecting natural gas be passed, providing compensation for those who have been prejudicially affected by recent legislation.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson informed the House that it was unlikely the present gas order would be extended after April 1. He had been informed that the Railway Board believed, weather conditions permitting, conditions could be restored to normal after that date. It was the intention of the Government, he said, to place an expert in charge to thoroughly study conditions, to go over the field and to recommend steps to the Government.

## MORE SALARY FOR PREMIER

Sir Wm. Hearst is Granted Increase by Legislature From \$9,000 to \$12,000

The Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon adopted a resolution increasing the Prime Minister's salary from \$9,000 to \$12,000 a year. Hon. Mr. McGarry, the Provincial Treasurer, introduced a resolution increasing the salary for the position of the First Minister in the Executive Council from \$3,000 to \$6,000. Exclusive of the salary for this office, Sir William Hearst's stipend is \$6,000. Mr. McGarry said perhaps never before was there so much need of the Prime Minister of the Province being independent. He questioned if there were anyone in the country, carrying the responsibilities attached to the office, who did not receive more than \$12,000 a year. The Premier's sessional allowance brings the amount up to \$13,400.

Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) said this was a time for sacrifice. He thought at this time the people should be asked to approve the worthiness of the Prime Minister for the increase in salary. If Sir William needed a trip for his health he would be quite willing to give \$100 personally.

### Mr. Proudfoot Approves.

The Opposition Leader said he thought the resolution would have passed without comment. Expenses have gone up and salaries generally have been increased. One officer of the Hydro-electric Commission, who also sits in the House, receives \$12,000 a year, and the Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board receives \$10,000. He objected to placing the Prime Minister in such a position that any member could make the suggestion that came from the East Hamilton representative. He thought the Prime Minister was entitled to the increased salary for no other reason than that the work was worth it. He also approved his work as Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. McGarry also introduced resolutions expressing the unqualified satisfaction of the House at the services of Sergeant-at-arms F. J. Glackmeyer and Clerk of the House A. H. Sydere. Both officials have held office since Confederation. They were also granted an honorarium of \$1,000 each.

## NICKEL POLICY IS CRITICIZED

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson in Reply Hints at Something Startling From Inquiry

The policy adopted by the Ontario Government in dealing with the situation regarding nickel in the Province was criticized in the Legislature last night by members of the Opposition.

In introducing his motion Mr. Sam Carter of South Wellington said the nickel business is one that demands attention from the Province and the Empire. Nickel now enters into every implement of war. Three years ago some Opposition members had urged that the business should be completely controlled by the Government. Canada might not be able to carry on any future war if she did not control her nickel output. If it is true, as reported, that the British Government has invested money in one of the refining companies to insure its supply, he thought it was the wrong method. He wanted to know more about the stock of the Canadian Copper Company, the net profits of which, he said, were reported for one year to be \$12,000,000. He said he had been told less than \$12,000,000 was invested in the company.

Surprise was expressed by Mr. Hartley Dewart (Southwest Toronto) that the Government had not introduced some program at this session in regard to nickel.

### That Port Colborne Plant.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, replied that construction work on the Port Colborne plant had been delayed because of inability to get certain machinery. However, it is hoped that it will be in operation by June or July of this year. If it is so that some stock in the International Nickel Company is held by alien enemies, it has long ago been established by British authorities that arrangements have been made to control the output of the company. The Ontario Government, said the Minister, is not in the habit of disclosing its plans until it knew whereof it spoke. An investigation has been carried on, and something startling may yet be announced.

Mr. Carter then expressed his willingness to withdraw the resolutions.

### Hull or Ontario.

Mr. G. C. Hurdman (West Ottawa) said he understood that the British-American Nickel Company had pretty well concluded negotiations for establishing their refinery in Hull, having made a better arrangement for power and labor, and the situation and everything else were about equal.

The Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines said the company already knew the views of the Government. The nickel lands these people control are held by the Booth-O'Brien interests, who got them years ago, and the Government has no control over them. However, the company has shown great anxiety to establish within the Province of Ontario. He added that he was hopeful of succeeding in having the company build in Ontario.

### FREE MAIL FOR SOLDIERS.

Representations will be made to the authorities at Ottawa by the Ontario Government as to the need of enacting a law to send mail matter free to boys overseas. Sir William Hearst gave this undertaking to Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce) in the Legislature yesterday, when the latter introduced his motion to have the Ontario Government memorialize the Government with that object in view. Mr. McDonald said he intended the resolution to strengthen the hand of the Dominion Government. He was surprised that action hadn't been taken long ago.