

a big roads conference in Spain this summer.

To Make Inquiries.

M. M. MacBride (Independent Labor, South Brant) read a copy of a letter to the Attorney-General from the Canadian Optometrical Association, dated January 27 of this year, which letter asked the Attorney-General to dismiss the Board of Examiners in Optometry. Quotations were made in the letter from a report by the auditors, Clarkson, Dilworth & Company, as a support to the petition. Mr. MacBride asked what the Attorney-General intended to do if no action already had been taken. Mr. Raney asked the South Brant member to let him see the letter and he would make inquiries in the department and make a statement to the House today.

Answering a question asked by Charles McCrea (Conservative, Sudbury), Hon. Peter Smith made a return to the Legislature yesterday that the Devonshire Racing Association gave a cheque for \$15,000 to cover the tax of the last two days of the meet in 1922. The cheque was returned from the bank marked "N.S.F.," and the Government accepted a bond for 5 per cent., dated October 1, 1922.

ONTARIO'S ESTIMATES \$2,700,000 OVER 1922

A summary of the main estimates of the Province of Ontario for the year ending October 31, 1924, tabled in the Legislature after midnight, totals \$26,090,778.04, or an increase of approximately \$2,700,000 over last year for similar services.

The summary is as follows:

Civil Government, \$2,113,525; legislation, \$336,485; administration of justice, \$1,780,300; education, \$7,478,828.28; public institutions, \$3,362,516; agriculture, \$1,666,738.45; colonization and immigration, \$208,584.96; hospitals and charities, \$1,268,900; maintenance and repairs of Government buildings, \$517,936.35; public buildings, \$680,300.

Public Works, \$150,500; Department of Labor, \$2,338,075; colonization roads, \$857,300; Department of Public Highways, \$201,320; Game and Fisheries, \$271,250; Attorney-General's Department, miscellaneous, \$50,500; Treasury Department miscellaneous, \$451,619; Provincial Secretary's Department, miscellaneous, \$7,750; Lands and Forests, \$1,907,200; Department of Mines, \$139,550; refund account, \$127,000; miscellaneous, \$174,600. Total, \$26,090,778.04.

BILLS GET THIRD READING.

Third readings were given in the Legislature yesterday to the following bills: Respecting the city of London; respecting the town of Tillsonburg; to incorporate the city of York City; respecting the town of Brampton; respecting the University of Western Ontario; to amend the Local Improvement Act.

PROGRESS IS SLOW IN ONTARIO HOUSE

Many Bills Held Over to Give Time for Debates

WILL MEET IN MORNINGS

Formal provision for morning sittings of the Legislature was made yesterday, when the Attorney-General, with the concurrence of the whole House, moved that Tuesday and thereafter there commence a morning session at 11 o'clock. The House clings to the intention of prorogation this week.

Bills Held Over.

Despite the need for haste, not a great deal of progress was made at the afternoon session, when a dozen or more items of legislation were brought up. The Blue Sky bill—the most contentious remaining measure—was called for committee consideration, but withdrawn pending the attendance of interested members. The same thing happened Charles Swayze's bill to repeal the Gas Act, which would do away with the Gas Referee, and, presumably, throw the municipalities back upon their old contracts with the gas companies. The reception given Mr. Swayze's bill was a fair intimation that it will be discussed somewhat at length, J. A. Currie, Southeast Toronto, in particular, declaring himself vitally interested in the question of fuel supplies for western Ontario, and also in the aspect of the Ontario gas situation dealing with Standard Oil Company connections with existing companies.

Two Bills Get Readings.

After brief discussion, and some misunderstanding as to the purport of the bill of Robert Cooper, Liberal, Welland, regarding admission to hospitals of indigent patients, the measure was withdrawn. Mr. Cooper felt that existing legislation requiring the authority of outside municipalities for admission of outside patients worked a hardship on smaller municipalities.

Hon. Manning Doherty's cheese factory amalgamation bill got second reading, after the Minister had amended it to have the third member of the boards governing these Government-aided institutions a disinterested party, and not the President of the new company, as was formerly provided. Hon. Peter Smith, Provincial Treasurer, also secured second reading for his bill authorizing the raising of \$35,000,000 by Provincial loans, and, in addition, half a dozen measures got third reading. Toward 5.30 p.m. the House went into supply.