

Friday, Mar. 28th

TEETH IN MEASURE TABLED "IN BLANK"

Ontario Government Sponsor
for Bill to Change Organi-
zation of Judiciary

RECALLS TIMBER PROBE

A Government bill, cited as the Judicature Act, 1924, and introduced and given its first reading in the Provincial Legislature in blank, promises to occasion considerable surprise and comment when it is distributed today.

The bill, in a nutshell, proposes to reorganize in several respects the constitution of the High Courts of Ontario and make changes in the precedence of the Judges. It provides that the composition of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Division shall be "designated for that purpose by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council." In like manner it provides that, upon a vacancy occurring in the office of President of the Appellate Division and Chief Justice of Ontario, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may designate one of the Justices of the Supreme Court to the position.

Deposes One Chief Justice.

By the bill Section 5 of the act of 1923, which provided for the appointment of a Chief Justice of the Second Divisional Court—the position at present occupied by Mr. Justice Latchford, who now ranks next to the Chief Justice—is repealed, while the new bill provides that "the Chief Justice of the High Court Division shall have rank and precedence next after the Chief Justice of Ontario."

The existing act is further amended by providing that "every appeal to the Appellate Division under the Controverted Elections Act, and every cause of matter in which an appeal lies as of right to the Supreme Court of Canada shall be heard and disposed of by not less than five Judges," while other appeals shall be disposed of by not less than three Judges.

Politics Behind Proposals?

Rumors of the contents of the bill already have occasioned talk in legal and political circles. By some the Government is accused of attempting to drag politics into the administration of justice by the courts and to establish the evils of patronage in designating the members of the judiciary. It is regarded as significant that the Chief Justice of the Second Divisional Court, whom the bill proposes to demote, is one of the Judges who conducted the investigation of the timber administration of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, the present Premier. If the bill were shown to be in the nature of a vendetta, it is said to be likely that, in event of its passing the Legislature, it would be taken under review by the Federal authority as provided in the constitution.

RURAL HYDRO LINES WILL BE ASSISTED BY THE PROVINCE

Bill Introduced in Legislature
Affects Cost of New
Installation

Further aid to the construction of rural Hydro transmission lines is contained in the bill introduced yesterday into the Legislature by Hon. J. R. Cooke, Minister without portfolio. By this new measure the Government is to pay 50 per cent. of the installation cost of the second transmission line on the highway. This cost includes the cost of transformers.

At present the Government pays 50 per cent. of the cost of installing rural primary transmission lines. It is estimated that these installations cost about \$1,200 a mile, of which the Government pays \$600 a mile. The average cost of the secondary transmission lines is about \$800 a mile, of which the Government will now pay about \$400 a mile.

It is estimated that the cost of Hydro service to the farmer under the new scheme, for doing the average amount of work on his farm, and for light, will be about \$8 a month.

Legislature's Tribute To Great Canadian

As a mark of respect to the late Sir Edmund Walker, the Ontario Legislature will meet this afternoon at 3.30 o'clock, instead of at the usual hour of 3, the Premier announced yesterday.

Mr. Ferguson said Ontario had suffered a serious loss in the sudden death of Sir Edmund. The Province particularly owed him tribute because of his close attention to and intimate connection with Provincial University affairs. Probably as much as any other factor, his interest in art and music had helped to the success of the Mendelssohn Choir, the Premier said, and he added that it was particularly tragic that he had been cut off a few days before he had planned to sail for a trip to Europe.

In asking the House to meet half an hour later today, the Premier said, referring to the funeral service to be held in Convocation Hall: "I take it, it would be a fitting tribute to an outstanding native-born son of Ontario if as many members as possible found time to attend this funeral."

FOREST AIR FORCE TO WATCH ON HIGH FOR SIGNS OF FIRE

Hon. James Lyons Plans
Greater Protection of
Ontario's Timber

In a comprehensive survey of the Lands and Forests Department, of which he is the head, with particular references to Northern Ontario potential wealth and development, Hon. James Lyons told the Legislature yesterday that the time would come, if it was not already at hand, when the Ontario Government must consider the establishment of a Department of Research to see what could be done in the way of conservation of forestry products by utilizing by-products.

Extravagance of Past.

In opening his speech, he condemned the old Government for what he deemed to be its extravagance when in office, and likened its members to the old lady who disagreed with her bank teller as to the depletion of her bank account because, she said, there were still seven blank cheques left in the book. He estimated that they had increased the total taxation in Ontario by \$40 per head.

Proceeding, he twitted the former Minister, Hon. Beniah Bowman, with looking carefully after his own constituency of Manitoulin, and quoted the expenditures therein to show that they had increased sevenfold over those of the previous four years. He also noted a fourfold increase in the expenditure in the riding of Z. Mageau, Liberal member for Sturgeon Falls.

The Minister announced a reorganization of the administration of the Northern Ontario roads system, previously divided according to locations and conditions under three Provincial departments. Co-ordination would be effected, he said, which would eliminate a condition which he described as retaining one official for every unit of expenditure of \$1,200.

"We propose," he said, "to give greater consideration to the building of branch trunk roads. At the present time little consideration has been given to them. We propose to serve the outlying districts by constructing more branch roads and by maintaining them in good condition."

Within the next three years he hoped that the Government would have completed the link in the proposed trans-Canada highway between Port Arthur and the Manitoba boundary, a distance of 115 miles. Ontario, he said, should not lag behind in linking up the two extremes of the country by a highway. To Mr. Bowman he said that the route from the Soo to the Head of the Lakes had not as yet been determined.

Forecasts Timber Survey.

He stressed the importance of Northern Ontario's pulp industry to the Province and the country as a whole, and said it was the intention of the Government to work out a policy that would provide continuous supplies of raw material, not only for existing industries, but any others that the Government might approve of in perpetuity. A general survey of Ontario's timber resources would be undertaken very soon.

He quoted statistics to support his advocacy of a policy of the retention in Canada for manufacturing purposes of the raw materials of the forest and estimated that Canadian workmen and Canadian industry had lost untold millions in past years