

Tuesday.

April 7th

GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR \$43,822,302 TO MEET EXPENSES

Main Estimates for Year Ending October, 1926, Are Tabled in Legislature

BIG HYDRO EXTENSIONS

Provision Is Made for Further Bonus Grants for Rural Lines

Main estimates for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1926, were tabled yesterday in the Legislature, and total \$43,822,302.35. The highest figure is for the Prime Minister's Department, which is \$16,057,775. The total for the Attorney-General's Department is \$2,078,940; for the Education Department, \$7,289,895; for the Lands and Forests Department, \$2,639,825; Public Works Department, \$1,970,936; Labor Department, \$2,289,905; Provincial Secretary's Department, \$5,730,216; Agriculture, \$2,368,095.

Much of the expenditure in the Prime Minister's department is made up of Hydro items. In the Niagara system for the Queenston units 1 to 10, Ontario Power and Electrical Development improvements, preliminary engineering, with further developments, the sum of \$2,600,000 is set aside. For steam plant, engineering and construction, \$5,000,000 is provided. Two millions is asked for for transformer stations, and \$1,500,000 to provide for additional high-voltage lines, reconstructing formerly Toronto, Niagara Power lines, and additional betterments, etc.

St. Lawrence and Georgian Systems.

In the Georgian Bay system for developments for South Falls, Hollow Lake Dam, Severn, Muskoka, and improvements to other existing plants the sum of \$500,000 is to be voted. An additional \$200,000 is to be provided for transformer stations, additions and betterments, etc.

In the St. Lawrence system for developments there is to be voted \$600,000, transformer station \$100,000, transmission and distribution lines \$100,000. The sum of \$200,000 is to be spent in the Rideau system and \$950,000 in the Thunder Bay system. The Central system will require \$825,000, the Nipissing system \$600,000, and other miscellaneous charges amount to \$685,000. A half-million is set aside for bonuses to rural lines.

\$557,000 for Colonization Roads.

Legislation estimates show a decrease of \$7,000 over last year, and the Attorney-General's Department estimates a slight increase, about \$13,000. The usual grants to the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum are made. Colonization roads are to cost \$557,000, a decrease of \$300,000. There is just about this amount of decrease in the proposed expenditure of the Lands and Forests Department.

There is quite a large reduction in estimates for the Public Works Department, there being a decrease of a million dollars under the heading public buildings. Government House maintenance costs \$48,925, the same as last year, and there is a reduction estimated of about \$9,000 on Parliament Buildings maintenance. There is an estimated reduction in the Provincial Treasurer's office of \$36,000.

PROGRESSIVE GROUP IS MILDLY OPPOSED TO HIGHER INDEMNITY

Not Enough Opposition From Any Quarter to Threaten Second Reading

LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED

With members of the Progressive group opposing—although not so vigorously as to occasion a division of the House—the Legislature yesterday passed through second readings the two bills of the Prime Minister, one increasing members' indemnities from \$1,400 to \$2,000, and the other increasing Cabinet Ministers' salaries from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

In the legislation which was introduced, the Premier is made the one Cabinet exception in the general increase—his salary is to remain at \$12,000—and considerable amusement was caused by the attitude of the Labor group, for whom Peter Heenan of Kenora spoke, that in committee they would move an amendment that the Premier's salary should be increased proportionately.

"Right Thing; Wrong Time."

Progressives who spoke against the bill were Hon. Manning Doherty, acting Leader in the temporary absence of Mr. Raney; J. G. Lethbridge, Middlesex; D. P. Taylor, North Grey, and D. M. Ross, North Oxford. Mr. Doherty was mild in his denunciation of the measure, expressing his opinion that the Government was "doing the right thing at the wrong time," but Messrs. Ross and Lethbridge were a little stronger in objecting.

Although Sam Clarke, Liberal member for West Northumberland suggested, and Premier Ferguson concurred, that any member whose conscience would not let him vote for the measure should not accept the increase when it was voted, none of the Progressives accepted the challenge. Mr. Ross, however, on a former occasion, refused to accept \$600 bonus when it was generally accorded by the Drury Government. Mr. Lethbridge said that if the increase was enacted over his head he would accept it, and Mr. Doherty considered that members, even though they opposed the measure, ought to "obey the law," and accept what had been decreed.

Will Probably Accept.

Sam Clarke ventured the assurance that Mr. Doherty would never be brought to court for not accepting the \$600 which was to be voted, and Premier Ferguson—maybe facetiously—suggested that, perhaps in committee, the Legislature could supply such amendment as would protect members opposed to the increase from being imposed upon in the matter of its acceptance.

In introducing the subject, Premier Ferguson detailed the salaries of Cabinet Ministers in other Provinces, as follows: Alberta, \$6,000; British Columbia, \$7,500; Manitoba, \$5,400; Quebec, \$6,000; Saskatchewan, \$6,000; Nova Scotia, \$5,000.

Comparing the responsibilities of