

## ESTIMATES FOR HYDRO AND FOR AGRICULTURE COME UP NEXT WEEK

Item for Board of Health  
Salaries Omitted After Be-  
ing Noted by Sinclair

### GODFREY DETAILS WORK

Postponing until next week its consideration of expenditures for Hydro purposes and for the Department of Agriculture, the Ontario Legislature yesterday otherwise completed the passing of the main estimates for the fiscal year of 1928, totalling some \$44,556,000.

The House had previously decided to set apart one day for the consideration of the rural distribution of Hydro power so, yesterday, left the Hydro estimates over until next week when they will be the basis for lengthy discussion.

And, in order to give Hon. John S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture, the opportunity to deal in detail with affairs of his department — agricultural matters of particular interest to many members of the House—an item of expenditures in connection with his department was also left over.

One change in the estimates was made yesterday when Opposition members noted that an amount of \$1,800 was set aside for salaries for the Provincial Board of Health. William E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, drew attention to the fact that under new legislation this board would soon be out of existence. Premier Ferguson agreed that the item should not be included in the estimates, admitting that it was there through an error.

The House in committee of supply dealt with estimates of \$736,675 for the Department of Health; \$2,512,980 for the Department of Labor; \$634,550 for the Provincial Treasurer's Department, an amount for the Provincial Secretary's Department and miscellaneous estimates.

#### Protection of Settlers.

During consideration of the expenditures in connection with the Department of Health, Hon. Dr. Godfrey, Minister of Health, took the opportunity to detail work done by his department. Recently, said he, a good deal of attention had been given to the protection of settlers in the outlying districts of the Province. The Government had been co-operating closely both with the municipalities concerned and with the Red Cross Association.

Dr. Godfrey emphasized that the Ontario Department of Health was the only one on the continent that dispensed free supplies of every known serum and vaccine, and even insulin. The work with insulin, he declared, was productive of significant results, for there had been a decrease in the deaths from diabetes in the Province.

#### Inspection of Theatres.

Liberal Leader Sinclair questioned the Provincial Treasurer in connection with the inspection of theatres. Hon. Dr. Monteith stated that a careful inspection of the construction of every theatre in the Province was carried on. The regulations laid down certain strict standards upon which theatres must be erected, providing for adequate exits and wide aisles.

When the estimate of \$130,000 for the Government Motion-Picture Bureau was considered, the Provincial Treasurer spoke of the intensive work being done by this department. Ninety per cent. of the films shown in Canada, he stated, were produced in the United States. There was a growing movement today, not only in this country, but in all parts of the British Empire, to challenge the supremacy of the States in this trade. The Government at the present time was sending a large number of films to England for propaganda purposes, and had even succeeded in having some of these shown in the States.

Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Highways, declined yesterday for the second time this session to inform the Opposition of the names of the firms who have been allowed to retain commissions during the past year in connection with the collection of the gasoline tax. It was a matter of Government policy, he said, to withhold the identity of these firms. He, however, stated that the amount of money retained by them was \$71,976.99.

## PROPOSES TO CONFER ON OLD-AGE PENSIONS

Subject Introduced in On-  
tario House by Leopold  
Macaulay

### STATEMENT BY PREMIER

Premier Ferguson expressed the hope in the Legislature yesterday that as soon as Parliament rose at Ottawa, Ontario would have the opportunity of consulting with the Dominion authorities in regard to the question of old-age pensions.

The Provincial Government, he said, has had no official communication from Ottawa, but he had seen where Hon. James Robb, Minister of Finance, had proposed a conference with all Provinces, and of this conference, he added, Ontario desired to take advantage. He also pointed out to the Legislature that the question was on the agenda of the Interprovincial Conference and would have every consideration this year.

The old-age pensions matter was introduced to the Ontario House yesterday by Leopold Macaulay, Conservative member for South York, who, in congratulating Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey, Minister of Health, for the excellent work done by his department in the interests of the poor, remarked that the great majority of people were "sick because they were poor," and, in this connection, strongly urged the Government to study the question in connection with the Interprovincial

Conference and ascertain who is "constitutionally responsible for it," and "what can be done about it."