

Saturday-February-9th.

BILLS INTRODUCED, QUERIES ANSWERED

**Interest Allowed at 4 Per
Cent. on Rural Hydro
Surpluses**

NO NEW SETTLERS IN 1928

In a three-quarter-hour session of the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon, several new bills were introduced, second reading was given to four measures before the House and the Government replied to half a dozen questions on administration which were raised by the Opposition.

Hon. George S. Henry stated in reply to a Liberal query that 228.5 miles of highways were built by the department in 1928 and that the cost of the different classes of highways was as follows: cement concrete, \$24,575; asphalt concrete, \$35,100; asphalt macadam, \$26,348; bituminous macadam, \$45,591, and macadam, \$14,591.

Interest on Surplus.

The Government gave further information as follows:

If a surplus occurs in a rural district served by the Hydro Power Commission and held by them from year to year, the interest is allowed thereon, and the rate is 4 per cent.

The total cost including approaches

to the bridge over Hogg's Hollow is \$801,703 to date and the County of York and City of Toronto had each supplied 20 per cent. of the cost.

The Hydro Power Commission does not issue sinking funds debentures to cover user's portion of cost of constructing rural lines.

No settlers have been transferred from unsuitable locations in Old Ontario to Northern Ontario during 1928 under the scheme propounded by Hon. William Finlayson in 1927, because the previous moves were a test of further settlement.

Second Readings.

Bills given second reading included the amendment to the Planning and Development Act, the amendment to the Mortgage Act, and Hon. Mr. Finlayson's amendment to the Assessment Act.

Hon. Harry Nixon (Progressive Brantford) introduced his amendment to the Election Act.

PREMIER AND PRICE DENY APPOINTMENT

**Surrogate Court Post for
Hon. Joseph Thompson
Rumored**

Premier Ferguson, Attorney-General Price and Hon. Joseph E. Thompson—all of them—claimed yesterday that there was nothing in the story that Mr. Thompson had been appointed Clerk of the Surrogate Court of York County in succession to the late Arthur Wallis. "Nothing to it at all," was Premier Ferguson's comment.

"You can say that there is absolutely no truth in such a rumor," Col Price declared. "It has never even been discussed by myself or any one of the Government. Mr. Thompson was talking with the Prime Minister last evening, but that matter was not even touched upon. It is not fair to Mr. Thompson that such stories should circulate when there is no truth in them."

Mr. Thompson himself said: "The position has not been offered to me. Nor have I asked for it. I have no particulars about it and I haven't given it any consideration. The first I knew of the matter was when I read in the papers."

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Now for the Voting

The amendment to the Municipal Act which allows for the Controllorship by-election in Toronto on Feb. 23 came out of the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon.

The final move to make this measure an actuality brought a special trip to the House by his Honor Lieutenant-Governor Ross. The House halted its activities to await the arrival of his Honor. He walked in at 3.25 p.m. and gave the Royal assent to the measure.