

Two matters, however, which were in the bill as originally drafted were eliminated. One subsection which had to do with rescue stations was dropped because this matter is dealt with by the Workmen's Compensation Board. And the other proposal which was eliminated yesterday was that of having a passageway between adjoining mines to be used as emergency door from one mine to the other. Premier Ferguson, introducing the bill, stated that this proposal was a contentious one, mining men not being desirous of having mines linked up in this manner.

**Further Conferences.**

However, this new framing of the bill is subject to revision. For the Minister announced that there would be further conferences between mining men and department officials and others interested during the summer.

Yesterday the House advanced its Legislative business with a bound. Twenty measures were given third reading. Six Government orders, three private bills and two public bills and orders were given second reading, and twenty bills were passed by the House in committee.

Two new bills were introduced, one being an amendment to the Tile Drainage Act, the other a bill to clarify the legislation having to do with mortgages involved in Hydro undertakings.

**623 Prisoners Released.**

Hon. Lincoln Goldie told the Legislature that, during 1927, 151 persons were released from Ontario's jails, prisons and reformatories before the termination of their sentence by permit, and that 504 were released on parole. During 1928 there were 254 persons released on permit and 369 on parole. He stated that there was no information on file in his department as to how many prisoners were released by executive clemency before their sentence was up.

Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, stated that the total cost of Ontario's air service last year amounted to \$361,366.26. A Progressive member asked why the expenses of the air service were not shown separately in Public Accounts like other branches of the Forest Department.

"Air service," said Mr. Finlayson, "is under the Forestry Branch and provides flying for forest protection in connection with fire ranging, forest surveys and photography."

Up to February 28, 1929, Attorney-General W. H. Price told the House, 243 returned soldiers had received appointments as employees under the Liquor Control Act in stores or warehouses. At present there are 224 employed. The balance, nineteen in all, represents dismissals, nine; resignations, eight; and two whose services were dispensed with. He said that returned men have the preference and when appointments are made inquiry is made to see whether they had war service or not.

**Other Liquor Figures.**

He stated that no money was paid to the Government by the Liquor Control Board for confiscated liquor sold by Government stores since the L.C.A. came into force. He stated that 5,123 1/2 gallons of confiscated liquor were destroyed during the 21 months ending February 28, 1929, as unfit for sale. He said that \$3,753.00 has been received by the Government from the sale of vehicles containing liquor confiscated since the L.C.A. came into force.

Mr. Finlayson stated that the total cost of transferring settlers and their effects from old Ontario to Northern Ontario and locating them in their new homes has amounted to \$8,438.97.

Hon. George S. Henry said that George F. Rogers, to whom \$1,057.49 was paid for travelling expenses last year, is an Inspector of High Schools, and on instruction from the Minister visited, last May, June and July, the secondary schools of Great Britain with a view to inquiring into the courses of study, organization, the age limits of pupils, qualifications of staffs, and the instruction, more particularly in the schools in which advanced courses are maintained for entrance into a three-year university course.

**MUNICIPAL PAYMENT TO OLD-AGE PENSIONS IS TO BE 20 PER CENT.**

**Administration Will Be by Local Boards in Counties**

**TERMS ARE EXPLAINED**

**Act Introduced Into Legislature — Pensions Are Not Taxable**

Ontario's Old-Age Pensions Act was revealed to the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

In the language of Premier Ferguson, who introduced it, the bill provides for the receipt of the 50 per cent. payment by the Federal authorities; a 30 per cent. contribution from the Provincial Treasury; and asks the municipalities to supplement the amount by a contribution of 20 per cent. toward the maintenance of the aged, needy people of their respective localities.

The 20 per cent. contribution asked of the municipalities is 5 per cent. lower than originally planned by the Ferguson Cabinet, and constitutes, practically, the only variation from the forecast of the legislation published by The Globe on the opening day of the session.

**Local Boards.**

General scheme of the act is patterned after the Mothers' Allowances legislation. Local boards will be appointed on the nomination of county Councils, and to them will be made all pension applications. Through them will come recommendations to the central authority which will administer the act and pay the pensions.

The new act is so "co-operative" in tone that one section stipulates that in the event of the Dominion Government ceasing to make its 50 per cent. contributions, or failing in any other way to live up to its agreement, Ontario shall at once discontinue payment of pensions, and in effect, wash her hands of the whole arrangement.

Costs of administering the act will be borne by the Province, alone.

Unorganized districts in Northern Ontario will be exempt from the 20 per cent. contribution with the exception of cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or more.

**Premier Gives Statement.**

In introducing the legislation yesterday, Mr. Ferguson expressed himself as desirous of correcting the wrong impression that existed in the minds of many people with regard to the course the Government intended to pursue in working out a pensions arrangement—an incorrect view that was due, he charged, "to erroneous statements that have been made from time to time by

individuals and by newspapers." In this connection, he gave to the House the following statement:

"In The Globe and Mail and Empire of Feb. 1 appears a considered statement given to the press by the Leader of the Liberal Party, which is incorrect and misleading. The statement reads: 'Following a caucus yesterday, Leader William E. N. Sinclair declared emphatically that Provinces which have adopted the Dominion scheme are contributing 50 per cent. toward the plan. The Province of Ontario should not meet the situation in any other way, but should gladly make its contribution under the legislation passed by the Federal Government at Ottawa.' I am quite sure Mr. Sinclair would not have made such an incorrect statement, had he made inquiry and known the facts.

"The Toronto Star has repeatedly made the untrue statement that Ontario is the only Province that is not assuming the payment of that portion of the pension not contributed by the Federal Government. As recently as March 7, in an editorial, it says, referring to old-age pensions: 'Mr. Ferguson is about to introduce such a measure, but it is understood will not do this as other Provinces have done, but will require the municipalities to share

with the Province the cost of pensions. This has been done in no other Province.'

"This statement is untrue, and, I believe, is a deliberate falsehood. Those who read the Star know its attitude toward this Government, and no explanation of its motive is necessary.

"What are the facts? The Manitoba Act declares on its face that, after making allowance for the money received from the Dominion Government, the whole of the balance necessary to meet the pensions, together with the entire cost of administration, is levied upon the municipalities and school districts. Not one dollar is contributed from the Provincial Treasury.

"This is so clearly stated in the Act that it is difficult to understand how any one should mistake the facts with regard to Manitoba.

**Situation in Alberta.**

"In Alberta Province, the legislation before that House provides that the 50 per cent. contribution made by the Federal Treasury is to be supplemented by 40 per cent. from the Province and 10 per cent. from the local municipalities.

"The bill just introduced provides for the receipt of the 50 per cent. payment by the Federal Authorities; a 30 per cent. contribution from the Provincial Treasury; and asks the municipalities to supplement the amount by a contribution of 20 per cent. toward the maintenance of the aged, needy people of their respective localities.

"The general scheme of the Act follows along the lines of the Mothers' Allowances legislation except that under the Mothers' Allowances Act the Counties Council nominate two members of a board of five and the Governor-in-Council names three members of such board. Under this Act the nomination of the entire board is left in the hands of the Counties Council. To this local board will be made applications and through them will come recommendations to the central authority which will administer the Act and pay the pensions.

"Local municipal organizations have a more intimate knowledge of the needs of the people of the locality, have all the machinery for securing information, and it is recognized that the local authorities are the best medium through which recommendations should be made. This has been demonstrated under the Mothers' Allowances Act.

**Relief to Municipalities Claimed.**

"There is no doubt that the 80 per cent. contribution made by the Dominion and Province to enable the pensioner to enjoy a measure of comfort, and prevent the possibility of his becoming dependent on local assistance, will be a relief to the local municipalities. What the Dominion and Province are in effect saying to the local authorities is that these two Governments will contribute 80 per cent. and ask you to contribute only 20 per cent. toward insuring comfort and happiness to many deserving old people, citizens of your own locality."

Ontario's Old-Age Pensions Act further provides authorization of the agreement with the Dominion Govern-

ment, and for payment of pensions under conditions specified in any act or regulations passed at Ottawa. It stipulates that all granting or refusal of pensions by the local municipal boards shall be subject to appeal to the Central Commission, and that the Commission's decision shall be final and binding.

**Payment of Pensions.**

"6. Every pension granted under this act, and the expenses incurred in the administration of this act," it is directed, "shall be paid out of such moneys as may be voted by the Legislature and appropriated for those purposes, and shall be paid by the Treasurer of Ontario upon the direction, in writing, of the Chairman or other head of the Commission, countersigned by the Minister, and every such direction shall be final and conclusive, and shall not be subject to further examination or audit by any Provincial authority, and the Treasurer, upon receiving the direction, shall issue the cheque, and the Provincial Auditor shall countersign same."

Municipal corporations will be required, at such intervals and on such dates, as fixed by the regulations which are to be drafted under the act, to make their 20 per cent. contributions, "and every amount shall be a debt due to the Crown from the corporation, and recoverable with costs by action at the suit of the Treasurer of Ontario."

All pensions granted under the act will be exempt from Provincial and municipal taxes, and will not be subject to garnishment or attachment or seizure or any legal process, and will be unassignable.