

Feb. 6th

Proposed Amendments.

All three moves on the part of the Government are embodied in proposed amendments to the Legislative Assembly Act, the Executive Council Act, and the Ontario Election Act, respectively. The extension of the Legislature term and the raising of his Ministers' salaries were intimated by Premier Ferguson from several platforms during the last election campaign.

Other amendments vaguely outlined in yesterday's Speech, but which are of extreme importance both to the Government and to the people, have to do with the Security Frauds Prevention Act; the Liquor Control Act; the Milk and Cream Act; the Power Commission Act; the Forest Fire Prevention Act, and the Highway Traffic Act.

Security fraud legislation which Attorney-General Price is preparing for introduction early in the session will deal very directly, it is understood, with "short selling" and "wash sales." Liquor Control Act amendments will be of a minor "tightening-up" nature, it is reported, unless a plan of regional purchasing—that is, every permit-holder buying in his own residential territory—is instituted at the last minute.

Universal Pasteurization.

The proposed Milk and Cream Act legislation may, it is rumored, result in universal pasteurization of milk and cream for the whole Province, with direct control and supervision over same to be brought under Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey and his Department of Health. Through its amendment the Government will aim, it is said, at a higher standard of milk and cream, and a better system of collection and disposal.

Through the amendment to the Power Commission Act, the Government will be authorized, it is said, to advance such moneys to the Hydro-

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**HEALTH AND HYDRO
IN NEW PROGRAM**

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Electric Power Commission as may be necessary to carry to fulfilment the Prime Minister's election promise of cheaper power rates to rural Ontario. In the great extension of the rural system contemplated and the dropping of rates, not a cent, it is understood, will come out of Hydro operating surpluses, but will be met by moneys advanced by the Government and repayable by Hydro in later years. The Government, it is said, is even prepared to shoulder any deficits that may temporarily arise in new territory that is included in the Hydro's rural expansion program.

By means of the Forest Fire Prevention Act amendment, Hon. William Finlayson will ensure for his foresters in the North bush absolute control over timber areas, even to the extent of closing the areas to any kind of traffic when fire-hazard conditions warrant such action. The legislation, it is understood, will also provide for an extension of the travel permit system, now in vogue in the Timagami Forest Reserve, to Quetico Park, Algonquin Park and other Provincial preserves with excellent timber stands.

Traffic Amendments.

From Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Highways, the House will have Traffic Act amendments, dealing particularly, it is reported, with the license suspension question. A schedule of more severe suspensions is now being worked out, it is said, for incorporation in this act, and will possibly provide for a minimum of three months' suspension of license and a maximum of one year for a first "drunken driver" offense.

The Speech from the Throne yesterday expressed pleasure over the King's recovery and his ability to resume his public activities again; referred with optimism to the recent conference at Ottawa on the power question; and forecast "special attention" for agriculture in the future programs of the Ontario Research Foundation.

The House will be asked, the Speech ran, "to give consideration to measures calculated to stimulate further certain phases of our educational effort." Reports received by the Department of Education continue to indicate, it said, that the general efficiency of both elementary and secondary schools is increasing, while the school attendance has reached the highest point yet recorded.

Health Activities.

Mention was made of the effective work of the Department of Health in combating the infantile paralysis epidemic of last summer and fall; and of the work of the Ontario Air Force in meeting the unusually severe bush-fire situation.

Promise of increased assistance for transportation facilities in the rural districts was reiterated. The new King's Highway program was referred to, as was the considerable extension last year in trunk roads under the Northern Development Department.

Of the Security Frauds Prevention Act, the Speech said: "The operation" of this act proved "of great value to Ontario during the financial crisis in the stock markets of the United States and Canada. It is reassuring to observe that the lead given by this Province in the enactment of this legislation is being followed elsewhere in the Dominion."

Recent discoveries of valuable mineral deposits in the North; the further extension of the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway to tap these deposits; presentation of an interim report this session by the Royal Commission investigating automobile insurance rates; the effort of the Government, through the new Ontario Building in London, England, "to display our products with more advantage in the principal market of the world"; and the work of the Royal Commission on the Provincial welfare situation were also matters of mention in the Speech.

In respect of finances, the Speech said:

"The healthy condition of our finances enabled my Government to realize a substantial surplus during the past year, notwithstanding the increased demands upon the public services and the operation of the debt retirement plan. The Provincial credit consequently has been noticeably enhanced, and the Government will be able to meet the cost of old-age pensions, and other fresh engagements, without the necessity of seeking new sources of revenue. At an early date the public accounts and estimates for the current and ensuing year will be submitted for your consideration."