

# CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN SUM PROVIDED REQUIRED IN NORTH

**\$2,000,000 May Suffice for  
Northern Development,  
Says Finlayson**

## MAINTENANCE WORK ONLY

Although \$3,000,000 is to be available for the work under the Northern Development Act, the actual appropriation for the year is considerably less than that, and \$2,000,000 might suffice, Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, told the Legislature yesterday when the bill authorizing the amount was given second reading. The higher figure set is to take care of contingencies which might arise, and it does not have to be all used, he said. Last year \$5,000,000 was set aside, but because of drastic curtailment of expenditures of all departments is in order, only maintenance works are to be carried on in connection with Northern highways this year, he said.

At the end of the last fiscal year there was a balance in the fund of \$915,000, but this has all been used up in the intervening period, and there is an overdraft, the Minister stated. "We have no money for new work, and there is not a single contract in Northern Ontario at present. We have had to lay off men all over the district."

"It has been suggested that this is sort of a personal cheque to the Minister, and that I can use it as I like. But I want to point out that every cheque, every work started and every account has to be authorized by an Order-in-Council. Many suggestions from the department have been turned down by the Council," Mr. Finlayson said.

### Will Answer Questions.

When the bill came up, Hon. Harry Nixon, Progressive Leader, asked if the Minister was going to reply to charges of maladministration of the work in the North which appeared in the press. Mr. Finlayson stated that he would answer them on another, and he hoped, early occasion. "I have had them all checked up. Some of them are a rehash of old matters which have been cleared up long ago. I will be glad to discuss them later."

During the twenty-one years the work of Northern development had

been carried on there had not been a single charge where it was proved that there has been any misuse of money, the Minister stated. "I do not say that some money has not been misapplied, but of the \$60,000,000 spent in that time, no one has suggested that any of it was improperly spent."

### No Crime in Camps.

Mr. Finlayson dwelt at length on the work on the trans-Canada highway, and said that of the 35,000 men who had been in the Northern camps not a single crime had been committed. No city of this size could boast of a similar record, and it was a tribute to the type of men who made up the camps.

There were at present 12,000 men in the camps, who were getting \$10 a month, and who were doing more per man than those who were obtaining a regular wage, he said. "I hope if we can keep the work going during the summer, that we will be able to open up the road from Pembroke to North Bay. Then one will be able to drive from here to North Bay and then east down the Ottawa River."

### Second Reading Given.

The bill sponsored by C. A. Robertson (Liberal, Huron North) to provide that debts could be extended for a longer period than six years without becoming outlawed, was given second reading and referred to the legal committee. It referred to simple contract debts. It was favored by W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal House Leader, who said that it would not relieve any one of a debt, but that many such debts were between friends, and one did not wish to take action to collect it, but did not wish it to be outlawed.

A bill sponsored by T. P. Lancaster (Conservative, Peterboro' County) was also given second reading, and referred to the Municipal Committee. It provided that all municipalities should publish in the press an abstract of their receipts and expenditures, so that the public might be acquainted with them. It was pointed out that the publishing of municipal annual statements was already being done, and that both were not necessary.

A bill introduced by Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, to transfer from the Minister of Mines the power he possesses in respect to municipal gas franchises to the Railway and Municipal Board, was also given second reading. An amendment to the Assessment Act, introduced by W. A. Baird (Conservative, High Park) to tighten up tax on incomes was also read a second time.

## COMMITTEE APPROVES CHAIN-STORE MEASURE

**Toronto M.P.P.'s to Oppose  
Bill in House, Debate  
Indicates**

Municipalities will benefit to the extent of thousands of dollars, it is estimated, through an increase in business assessment on chain stores, if the amendment to the Assessment Act, as approved by the Legislative Municipal Committee yesterday, passes the House. The committee sanctioned the clause after much debate, and after an endeavor was unsuccessfully made to cut the proposed increase down 25 per cent. to make the proposed levy 50 per cent. instead of 75 per cent.

Toronto members are prepared to make a stand against the bill when it is presented to the House for third reading, it is indicated by the debate in committee, and Hon. James Lyons (Conservative, Sault Ste. Marie) will join them.

Not only chain grocery stores, but also certain groups as restaurants, drug stores, candy shops, etc., are included under the provisions; but stores joined together for co-operative purchasing will not be hit.

Several representatives of firms in Toronto protested against the bill, declaring that the extra tax would merely be passed along to the public in higher cost of supplies. On the other hand, farmer members of the committee contended that chain stores had lowered the price of produce, but this was given a denial.

It may be possible under an interpretation of the clauses to bring gasoline stations within the meaning of chain stores, comment said. The bill was sponsored by the Ontario Municipal Association and introduced to the committee by T. W. Jutten (Conservative, Hamilton Centre).