

February 27

MINIMUM WAGE FOR MEN AND BOYS SOUGHT IN SESSION

Robb to Urge Same Rate as
for Women Under
Act

BOARD'S REPORT GIVEN

Men and boys must receive the minimum wage set for women in any industry covered by the Ontario Minimum Wage Act, according to legislation which Hon. Dr. J. M. Robb, Minister of Labor, will introduce in the House this week. Announcement to this effect followed presentation yesterday of the Minimum Wage Board's report, in which such legislation was strongly recommended.

Frequent complaints recently have been received against the practice of replacing women workers, whose wage is fixed by law, with men and boys paid a lower rate. The new legislation would provide "still further protection of the women workers of the Province by inclusion of men and boys in any orders issued by the board."

More Cheerful Outlook.

Other legislation recommended by the board will affect the hours for which rates are fixed under the board's orders, and the length of time for which arrears of wages may be collected. While no official statement was issued on this proposal, there have been many protests concerning reduction in girls' hours beneath the level fixed for payment of the minimum wage.

In reviewing a difficult year, the board's report said 1933 had shown the accumulated effects of three years' depression. The outlook for 1934 was considerably more cheerful, and the board felt that the wage situation would be considerably less acute from now on. During the year under review, 2,500 adjustments had been made, covering 1,000 firms, and \$9,497 in arrears of wages had been collected.

Cost of Living.

Minimum wage levels, the board said, are determined by the cost of living, and in this regard it issued a budget for an average Toronto worker, totalling \$12.50 per week, or \$650 a year, and including: Board and lodging, \$364; clothing, \$115.05; and sundries, \$171.

The board noted that most employers were ready to co-operate, but added: "It must be frankly confessed that some employers apparently are not prepared to practice what they preach." During the year the board made a thorough canvass of conditions in canning factories.

QUESTION ON LOAN REPEATED BY HIPEL

Waterloo South Liberal
Seeks Definite Answer
Concerning Allotment

OTHER INQUIRIES MADE

Dissatisfaction with a Government answer to his former question has led N. O. Hipel (Liberal, Waterloo South) to again ask what amount of the recent \$40,000,000 loan was allotted to or purchased by the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Nova Scotia and F. W. Kerr & Company. The repeated query is the aftermath to a point of order raised by Mr. Hipel after the Premier had said of a similar section of his former question: "The Government has no particulars on which to base a reply to this question, the matter for obvious reasons not being one for public information."

Mr. Hipel is also asking what Provincial funds have been spent for unemployment relief works and direct relief during the last four fiscal years. Succeeding clauses of the query ask what amount was paid from the ordinary revenue; what was borrowed and charged to the capital account, and all details of the latter financing.

The King's Counsel problem is still being brought to the fore by W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C. (Liberal, Ontario South). Mr. Sinclair is asking how many K.C. eligibles have fulfilled all provisions laid down as patent requirements.

The Opposition has also directed a series of questions at the operations of the Lands and Forests Department. Sponsored by C. A. Robertson, Liberal Whip; Dr. L. J. Simpson (Liberal, Simcoe Centre), and William Newman (Liberal, Victoria North), these queries ask whether, in the case of "cut-over" Crown lands, cut between September, 1927, and September, 1933, there have been any operations which have not met with the Minister's approval. The Liberals are also inquiring what amounts have been collected on account of waste or damage, and what penalties have been imposed, and are interested in particular in the four square miles in the southwest portion of Osborne Township, in the Nipissing District.

Further sections of the questions ask the amount of pulpwood purchased outside of the Province and imported by the Abitibi Company, for consumption at Iroquois Falls; the amount of pulpwood purchased by certain companies from settlers; and the details of agreements known as the Sturgeon Falls, Clergue and Espanola contracts.