

\$3,000,000 IS ASKED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH COUNTRY

Annual Appropriation Not
"Blank Cheque," Fin-
layson Avers

MILK BILL DISCUSSED

Introduction of the annual Northern Development resolution, second reading of the Public Vehicles Act, and passage through committee of the Milk Control Bill, featured a quiet session of the Legislature yesterday. An additional group of amendments to the Assessment, Municipal and Public Parks Acts were sponsored through second reading by private members and referred to committee.

The Northern Development resolution, which was carried through committee of the whole, provides an appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the work of the department during the coming year. Hon. William Finlayson explained the Northern development work has been financed, since its inception, by this means. "It is not in any sense a blank cheque," the Minister stated, citing the detailed statements of expenditures and the check-up on disbursements which culminates in Council action. "This year we are again asking for \$3,000,000; a smaller sum than we have ever asked, except last year," he commented.

Surplus Carried Over.

Figures showing \$63,000,000 had been voted for the Northern districts since 1912, and a few millions less than had been expended, were introduced by Mr. Finlayson in answer to a query. The surplus, it was explained, is carried over from year to year.

The Minister detailed one feature of the Northern Development Bill which is to follow the resolution, containing what he said might otherwise be interpreted as a "joker." This clause gives legislative approval to the department's distribution of \$4,000 foreclosure sale receipts to all debtors of the Cochrane Co-operative Dairies on a pro rata basis. Describing the dairy's history as rather "checkered," Mr. Finlayson mentioned the details of the original Government loan, the foreclosure sale after the dairy had closed down, the present operation of the dairy under private control, and the distribution of the Government's \$4,000 to all debtors. To a query from Hon. Harry C. Nixon, he stated the return had been only about 20 cents on a dollar.

Milk Control Probabilities.

W. A. Baird (Conservative, High Park) asked about the protection available to consumers when the Milk Control Act was ushered through committee. Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, stated that, in his opinion, the bill protected the consumer as well as the producer. To a query from Mr. Nixon, asking about the regulation of price-spread, Colonel Kennedy stated: "We haven't the power to do that." Mr. Nixon commented: "Other Provinces are doing it." Further questions from Mr. Nixon brought out the chairman of the board will probably be a "full-time" official, and at first, in the case of large companies, only a nominal fee will be charged. The minimum penalty authorized in the bill was reduced from \$25 to \$5, the Minister explaining after the session it was not desirable that too great a minimum penalty should discourage enforcement.

Second reading was given the Attorney-General's amendment to the Partnership Registration Act, which Colonel W. H. Price stated was spon-

sored by the Boards of Trade, and considered legislation which will strengthen the regulations without being too drastic.

The Legislature also gave second reading to the act which permits the Ontario Council of Physicians and Surgeons to forego the holding of examinations as long as Dominion examinations are held in Ontario. Hon. Dr. J. M. Robb, Minister of Health, explained that, with the majority of students taking the Dominion examinations, which register them throughout the Dominion, only a few were taking advantage of the Provincial tests.

The bills sponsored by private members passed to committee with a minimum of comment, save in the case of the amendment to the Assessment Act sponsored by A. F. Kenning (Conservative, Cochrane South). This bill, which would permit large townships to assess telephone and telegraph companies on the same basis as employed in cities and towns, was described by Mr. Finlayson, after a mention of circulars sent around by independent telephone companies, as a "contentious matter." It was referred to committee.