

# \$16,000,000 VOTED UNDER CRITICISM IN LEGISLATURE

## Children's Aid Probe to Begin "When Material Is Ready"

## GAME-FISH INCREASE

Sixteen million dollars was voted by the Legislature yesterday afternoon in the two-hour period it devoted to the estimates. With no great discussion, the House passed requirements of the Departments of Mines, Game and Fisheries, the Provincial Secretary, the Provincial Treasurer, Health and Public Welfare.

On the Welfare estimates, Progressive Leader Nixon inquired whether the Minister could give any information as to when the York County Children's Aid investigation would commence. "The Order-in-Council has been signed, and, when the material is ready, the inquiry will begin," said Hon. W. G. Martin.

### Better Time Before.

Mr. Nixon remarked that better time had been made in launching the Windsor inquiry, and Mr. Martin pointed out that the Border probe had been a departmental one, not by Royal Commission. Attorney-General Price remarked that Judge Parker, who is conducting the investigation, had to make the time for it conform with court arrangements.

Criticism of the item for the Girls' Training School at Galt also came from Mr. Nixon. Informed by Mr. Martin that there were forty girls in the school, the Progressive Leader pointed to the \$16,634 for salaries, "out of all proportion to the number of pupils." Mr. Martin answered that the same staff would handle a much larger number when the new school extended its work.

Provincial Secretary Chalkies was questioned closely by the Progressive group on the method of buying cattle for the Guelph Reformatory. Mr. Nixon sought to show that buyers for the Government also were supplying the abattoirs.

### Claims Defalcations.

On the Treasury estimates, Mr. Nixon quizzed Premier Henry concerning salaries paid employees of the Provincial Savings Office. He understood that tellers received as little as \$525 in Toronto branches, and that defalcations had been the consequences of the low rate. He promised to turn over his information on this matter to the Premier.

Mr. Nixon considered the \$17,000 item for archives salaries "ridiculous; what do they do for it?" Mr. Henry considered the archives were performing a valuable service, and further defended the operations of the Motion Picture Bureau.

Delineation of the work of the Department of Game and Fisheries was initiated when two Conservative members, Coulter McLean (Conservative, Eglinton) and T. P. Lancaster (Conservative, Peterboro') appealed for augmented supplies for the department. They were joined by Earl Hutchinson (Labor, Kenora), but strong opposition was expressed by J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry).

### Tourist Advantages.

The argument for increased appropriations was based on the necessity of fostering the tourist revenue from the United States. Mr. McLean holding that the fisheries cannot carry on unless given some of the money paid by tourists in gasoline taxes and Liquor Control Board revenue. Mr. Lancaster argued that it wasn't fair to hold down the department, and that appropriations should be materially increased because of the advantages which the Province derives from the tourist traffic. Curtailment of the department's activities was labelled a poor economy by Mr. Hutchinson.

D. J. Taylor, Progressive Whip, suggested that the Government might give more consideration to the work of Jack Miner's sanctuary, and Hon. James Lyons (Conservative, Sault Ste. Marie) agreed and expressed his belief in the value of the tourist traffic, qualifying this with the suggestion that in consideration of present conditions no more money should be spent.

The opposition of the member from Glengarry was promised on his skepticism of tourist revenue, of which he declared, "You couldn't prove it if you

argued till Doomsday." Holding that the taxpayer was paying enough, Mr. Sangster picked on the appropriation for the station located at Macdiarmid. "Five thousand dollars to Macdiarmid," he declared! "I don't know what kind of a bird that is."

Hon. George Chalkies summed up the debate with an explanation of the department's work. The department had paid for itself last year, he said, though admitting that the inclusion of the wolf bounty in expenditures had reduced the surplus to a few thousand dollars. The Minister pointed out, "but not in a critical way," that the sport of angling provides revenue only from non-resident licenses.