

# "Fair Pay" Reported As Legal Minimum

## "Increasing Tendency" to Reduce Rates Deplored by Wage Board

**A**N "INCREASING tendency to regard minimums fixed by law as a fair rate of wages" was deplored in the annual report of the Minimum Wage Board, tabled in the Legislature last night.

"During the past three years," states Chairman A. W. Crawford, "employers have adopted the practice of reducing wage rates and actual hours of employment until, in many instances, the minimum rates fixed by the board have become the prevailing rates and the short time worked has resulted in weekly earnings below the amount necessary to maintain a decent standard of living."

"Consequently the board has been faced with the necessity of either enforcing the act more vigorously or permitting an ever increasing number of violations which, in a short time, would render this protective legislation useless in so far as the workers are concerned, and a source of annoyance and unfair competition to the honest and conscientious employers. Backed by the Government, the board has chosen the first alternative and is making a sincere effort to maintain the minimum wages for all female employees."

As a result of prosecutions, investigations and complaints during the year, the board collected arrears of wages from 664 employers for 1,601 girls and women, amounting to \$51,932.

The report noted a general ignorance of minimum wage laws, confusion being due in large part to the fact that some forty orders have been issued during the past fourteen years.

## Bill Checks Extravagance

### Croll Introduces New Municipal Measure in House

**A**S THE Legislature adjourned at midnight Hon. David Croll, Minister of Municipal Affairs, tabled his important bill to place under the Ontario Municipal Board control of all municipal capital expenditures.

It is a move on the part of the Hepburn Government to check municipal extravagance, which, in the past, allegedly is responsible for the present economic plight of many municipalities.

## Game Laws Enforced By Provincial Police

Since the dismissals of game wardens, Major-Gen. Victor Williams, in his annual report, said, the Game and Fisheries laws have been enforced by the Provincial Police, and concludes: "From my observation, I am of the opinion that, although the enforcement of the Game and Fisheries Act is new to many members of this force, the act under present arrangements will be efficiently enforced."

## Rebates Are Banned In Revised Milk Act

### Sam Lawrence, C.C.F., Flatly Opposes Amendments Advanced

With former Premier Henry and U.F.O. member Farquhar Oliver arguing with city lawyers to commend the Minister of Agriculture, the 1935 amendments to the Milk Control Act went through second reading in last night's Legislature.

The only member flatly in opposition was Sam Lawrence, C.C.F. representative from Hamilton. To him the clause banning rebates and dividends was, with reference to co-operative right, "the last nail" in the Liberal coffin.

A main feature of the legislation. Hon. Duncan Marshall explained, permitted a man, refused a license or whose license had been revoked, to appeal to a Judge. The measure also provided for consumer representation, through Mayor or Council member, in milk-price conferences.

"There is no objection," the Minister said, "to dividends being paid to consumers who have stock in the companies, but rebates will not be permitted. We regard rebates as demoralizing to the industry."

The Minister declared the Government had received hundreds of letters commending the proposals in the bill.

## Dozen New Bills Are Introduced

### Hepburn, Croll and Roebuck Sponsor New Legislation

Rising as the Ontario House was ready to adjourn early this morning, Premier Hepburn, Hon. David Croll and Hon. Arthur Roebuck introduced a dozen bills—mainly outlining the Government amendments to municipal and assessment legislation, and featured by lowered tax arrears penalties.

A bill to amend the Assessment Act will lower penalties for tax arrears from 10 to 6 per cent. The bill also increases the discount on tax prepayments from 5 to 6 per cent. Another measure, also introduced by Mr. Croll, states that tax arrears may be consolidated, with their payment spread over a period of years.

In an omnibus bill amending the Municipal Act the Government introduced clauses fixing taxation rights in cold-storage plants; authorizing all municipalities—rather than only towns and cities—to license lending libraries; and clarifying the power of a municipality over overhanging signs.

The functions of the Northern Ontario Relief Commission will be placed under the Department of Public Welfare.

A measure introduced by Mr. Roebuck provides that members of the Workmen's Compensation Board shall hold office at the pleasure of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. This bill will be made retroactive to cover appointments to the board made by the present Administration. Opposition members congratulated the Government on bringing "all this legislation out of cold storage," as a joking House adjourned.

## Experience Important As House Talks "Pains"

Leaders of the Ontario Legislature talked about their "operations" in yesterday's Legislature, as they passed the bill removing motorists' liability for gratuitous passengers through second reading.

He had been recently seriously injured in an automobile accident, Colonel W. H. Price reminded the House, when he argued that the bill should be amended to protect the honest passenger.

Premier Hepburn was on his feet to point out that the honest driver through no fault of his own might be

ruined by actions following an unavoidable accident. In war days, the Premier said, he had been liable for hospital bills in an automobile accident which had sent him from the Flying Corps to the hospital for several months.

"You are not making this retroactive?" chuckled Leopold Macaulay.

Mr. Macaulay warned that the measure, incurring insurance collusion, might create personal hardship.

"One might wonder about all this concern for insurance companies," said G. C. Elgie, as the measure passed second reading.