

January 20

than that of previous revisions and it is hoped that publication will take place during the current year.

#### **Refers to Hydro Contracts.**

During the session of 1935, the Legislature enacted that certain contracts between the Hydro-Electric Power Commission and certain companies generating power in the Province of Quebec were void and unenforceable. The Government is convinced of the justice of this measure and is determined that the will of the Legislature shall not be thwarted and the benefits lost to the power users of the Province. Accordingly, legislation will be introduced with a view to making effective the purpose of the Legislature as already expressed.

The Commission has continued its expansion of service to rural areas with 810 miles of line constructed, or under construction, in 1936, and lowering the farm service charge from \$2 to \$1. Marked reductions in the costs of power have also been of material benefit to industry and power users generally in the Province.

#### **To Modernize Highways.**

Amalgamation of the Department of Northern Development with the Department of Highways during the past year will permit of more economical administration. A comprehensive program of construction and reconstruction is being prepared for this year. The objects of this program will be to modernize highways in the older and more densely travelled portions of the Province; to eliminate as rapidly as possible, dangerous level crossings; to meet the growing needs for settlers' roads and paved roads in the northern part of the Province; to co-operate with the Dominion Government in the construction of roads leading to mining regions which have hitherto been practically inaccessible and to co-operate to the fullest possible extent with all counties and townships in the continued improvement of their roads.

#### **Schools Improved.**

The activities of the Department of Education have been directed during the past year chiefly to the improvement of the instruction being provided in both elementary and secondary schools. Methods employed in the training of teachers have been modified, with a view to providing them with a wider experience in teaching before receiving certificates. Changes in the courses of study are contemplated, which may be expected to provide opportunities for the better adjustment of the subjects of study to the capabilities and interests of the students.

Figures indicate a 15 per cent. increase in tourist traffic, with prospects for a continued increase this year, from which many classes of our people benefit immediately. The Game and Fisheries Department has done much to foster this lucrative traffic by restocking our lakes and streams and stimulating interest in the conservation of wild life. Another trout-rearing station is approaching completion near North Bay, and other stations are being enlarged and improved. It is of interest to note that in 1936 more non-resident hunting and angling licenses were issued than in the peak year of 1929.

#### **Enlarge Mental Hospital.**

During the past year, the Department of Health has made a special effort to reduce the ravages of tuberculosis, and has provided support for the construction of sanatoria in Northern and Eastern Ontario. Plans for increased accommodation for mental patients are under review. The department will sponsor legislation to curtail the use of codeine, phenobarbital and other habit-forming drugs.

In addition to the legislation already mentioned, certain changes of an administrative nature will be made in the Corporation Tax Act and Succession Duty Act. The latter will also be amended so that contributions to charitable, educational and religious institutions shall be exempted when rates for duty are fixed. Amendments will also be made to the Companies Act, Game and Fisheries Act, Municipal Act, Mining Act, Beach Protection Act, Natural Gas Act, Motor Vehicles Act, and for various other purposes.

The public accounts for the fiscal year ending March 31 last have been issued, and the estimates for the year immediately ahead will shortly be presented to you.

In conclusion I trust that under the guidance of Divine Providence your labors will be fruitful and will enhance the public welfare.