

ESTATE DRIVE WILL CONTINUE

Government Hopes to Collect \$17,000,000 in Succession Duties

TO HUNT OUT FRAUD

Serving notice that the Provincial Treasury will intensify its drive to obtain payment from delinquent estates, Premier Hepburn told the Legislature yesterday in his Budget address that he expected the Province would secure \$17,000,000 in succession duty revenue for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1938. This is approximately \$1,000,000 more than will have been collected for the fiscal year of 1936 when the books are closed on March 31.

While expressing determination to sift to the bottom every estate where fraud and misrepresentation appear to have been practiced, the Provincial Treasurer revealed that if persons have knowledge of any irregularity in any statement with which they have had to do, and come forward voluntarily with information which will enable the Government to obtain its rightful due, they will be given a full discharge without any penalty except the amount of interest.

"I have heard it said that the Treasury Department has been able to collect the large sums that it has gathered in because of the fact that legislation passed by the Dominion Government in 1933 made available to the Treasury Department the names of coupon-clippers of bearer bonds," continued Mr. Hepburn. "Such a statement is wholly untrue. Practically every estate that has been dealt with was created through the death of the testator occurring before the said amendment to the Dominion Income Tax Act was passed.

"Moreover, in the majority of cases that we have investigated, our investigation has resulted in uncovering fraud practiced on the Income Tax Department at Ottawa. And I am told that, through our co-operation, the Dominion Exchequer has been enriched by millions of dollars."

The Premier contrasted the cost of collecting inheritance tax in Arizona, \$40 for every \$100 collected, with the 83 cents per \$100 in Ontario. This reflected credit on the Administration, he felt, and was conclusive proof that succession duty was a sound tax, at least as far as economical administration was concerned.

TO MODERNIZE ALL HOSPITALS

Province Will Build New Units, Hepburn Announces

ONE SITE SELECTED

Premier Hepburn announced in his Budget address yesterday that his Government will shortly embark upon a program of modernizing and fireproofing the Ontario hospitals at Brockville, Cobourg, Hamilton, Kingston, London, New Toronto, Orillia and Penetanguishene.

A sufficient number of new hospital units to accommodate the rapidly increasing patient population will be erected—in areas which are not as well served as conditions demand.

Already a site for a new mental institution has been selected at Port Arthur, he informed the House. Construction of new buildings is proposed for Hamilton, where additions, including a new reception building, will be erected at a cost of \$300,000. At Woodstock two new units for epileptic children will be undertaken, as well as other additions, improvement of equipment, and fireproofing.

The total amount that will be placed in the estimates for this building program, Mr. Hepburn revealed, will be \$2,650,000. "It is the intention of the Government," he said, "that practically all of this work will be done by private equipment, for which tenders will be invited."

Highways Construction Program of \$14,587,350 Announced by Hepburn

A highways construction program involving an outlay of \$14,587,350, with full consideration given to the increasing requirements of the northern part of the Province, will be launched this coming fiscal year by the Ontario Government, Premier Hepburn informed the Legislature in his Budget presentation yesterday.

"In preparing this program," said the Premier, "safety in construction and maintenance will be emphasized. Grade separations, both railway and highway, will receive special attention. Construction generally will be of a much higher standard, wider road surfaces, improved alignment and grades. The policy of building divided pavements on heavily travelled roads will be continued; in short, every effort will be made to bring our highways to the highest possible standard of safety."

167 Miles Added.

During the year which is just

closing, said the Prime Minister, the Government has added 167 miles to the Provincial road system, 76 construction projects were started and mostly completed under an agreement with the Federal Government, the latter contributing 50 per cent. of the total cost of the work done and material supplied under each project. This work, said the Prime Minister, included the laying of 95 miles of new pavement, 100 miles of grading, and the construction of 15 bridges, including some of the largest ever built in Ontario.

Several grade crossings, he said, were eliminated, with substantial assistance received from the Federal Government on this account. Construction was commenced on a four-lane highway from Oshawa to Toronto, thence via the Middle Road and Burlington Beach, through St. Catharines and Niagara Falls to Fort Erie, connecting at the Peace Bridge with the road to Buffalo.