

# FLOOD CONTROL, CONSERVATION ARE PLANNED

Measure Provides for \$2,-  
000,000 Expenditure in  
Next Two Years

## GETS SECOND READING

Federal, Provincial and Mu-  
nicipal Governments to  
Divide Costs

Enabling legislation for Ontario's first large scale water conservation and flood control project, centred on the Grand River and its upper tributaries, was given second reading yesterday in the Legislature.

Hon. Colin Campbell, Minister of Public Works, stated that the project called for the expenditure of \$2,000,000 within the space of the next two fiscal years and emphasized that there was urgency in getting the plan under way.

The cost of the undertaking is to be borne in a three-way split by the Federal and Ontario Governments, each bearing 37½ per cent, and an assessment on the interested municipalities for the balance in proportion to the benefits derived.

Major works, he stated, involved the erection of two dams, one at Waldemar on the upper Grand River, west of Orangeville, and one at Hollen, on the Conestoga River, a little hamlet about five miles southwest of Drayton, the nearest incorporated village.

### Need for Conservation.

Mr. Campbell and J. A. Smith (Lib., Waterloo North) both emphasized that flood control, while an essential part of the project, was considered secondary to the need of conservation.

The conservation feature, they emphasized, came under two divisions, one to provide a means of securing a sufficient flow of water to aerate and purify sewage during the dry seasons and the other to offset an increasingly acute shortage of water in both surface and artesian wells.

Mr. Smith, formerly Mayor of Kitchener, a city which depended largely on artesian wells for its domestic supply, declared that engineers were of opinion that the conservation of water in the upper tributaries, because of seepage through the rocks, would materially increase the deep water reserves in the entire area.

He stated that the conservation of water in the Luther Marsh, some twelve miles above Grand Valley, which Saturday suffered one of the worst floods in its history, was an integral part of the scheme. It was planned, he said, by means of dams, to feed the water down during drought periods and in sufficient quantities to provide adequate sewage aeration. He claimed also that the need of conservation was even more important than that of sewage disposal.

William Duckworth, (Cons., Dovercourt), an old Grand Valley boy, was critical of the dam proposal, pointing out that Waldemar was at least twenty miles from the marsh. He couldn't see how a dam at Waldemar could conserve water in the marsh.

There was no idea of flooding the marsh, said Mr. Smith. The marsh, engineers reported, was one of the best-drained areas in the Province and it had been found after the canal had been dug that the land was worthless. Tree planting and other conservation works, to form natural water retention barriers, was planned for the marsh, he said.

### New Commission.

Mr. Campbell explained that the project has been under way in varying degrees since 1912. First direct action by the Government was taken in 1932 when the Henry Administration appointed an Investigatory Commission. The bill, he said, merely carried out in large measure the Commission's findings, set up a new Commission to administer the project, gave it power to finance the works, make assessments against the municipalities, make expropriation of lands and to function as a directing body in other matters essential to its operation. Government contributions, he claimed, would be made in separate agreements.

The Grand River Valley, he said, was one of the most highly industrialized areas in the Province, and included manufacturing cities like Kitchener, Galt and Brantford, as well as towns like Fergus, Elora, Preston, Paris and Hespeler.

Estimated expenditures of \$770,000 required by some of these municipalities for sewage disposal works, could be saved through the conservation plan, he claimed.