

# Job Insurance Is Ready For House This Week, Says Premier Hepburn

Ontario Has Two Bills Prepared, One to Be Used as Complementary Legislation, and the Other to Stand as Its Own Measure; No Constitutional Bar Seen to Action by Any Provincial Authority

## STILL HOPEFUL OF MOVE BY OTTAWA

The Ontario Government stands ready to bring in legislation this week making effective unemployment insurance, either as a provincial responsibility or as legislation complementary to a federal measure, Premier Hepburn disclosed yesterday to the Legislature.

The Premier, in answer to a question by Col. T. A. Kidd (Con., Kingston), did not indicate definitely the administration's intention. He emphasized that the government had been keeping in close touch with developments at Ottawa, and, in pointing out that the solicitor of the Senate had recently advised there was no constitutional handicap to a federal unemployment insurance scheme, gave the suggestion that the Provincial Government was still hopeful that a broad federal scheme would still be brought down.

In any event, he added, the Provincial Government had the two bills under consideration.

"If the Dominion does enact legislation, the enabling bill gives us power to enter into and to consummate certain agreements with that government," he said.

The announcement by Premier Hepburn was greeted with approval by Toronto labor leaders. They stated they had been informed some time ago that the government planned such a step, but with the end of the session approaching they were beginning to think that no bill on the question would be intro-

duced. While they were of the opinion that unemployment insurance was a matter for the Federal Government to deal with, they realized that a step forward would be taken in the legislation.

"While we prefer a federal unemployment insurance bill," said John W. Buckley, secretary of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, "the very fact that unemployment insurance has been or will be instituted as a bill in one province may have its reflex in the enactment of a federal bill in which all the provinces will unite."

He expressed as his opinion, as well as that of other labor leaders, that an unemployment insurance bill by one province would affect only those who were permanent residents of that province. The Government of Canada must of necessity realize that the country can only achieve prosperity by having a large migratory army of workers who can transfer their services from one province to another, he said.

"For this reason a national unemployment insurance bill will ultimately be essential," he continued, "to the prosperity of Canada. However, I am not knocking Premier Hepburn's bill; he is doing his best, and the lead of Ontario may be followed by other provinces. Other advantageous legislation was put through by a single province before being adopted by others and by the Federal Government, and this may happen in connection with unemployment insurance."