

## ONTARIO TREATY NOT YET SIGNED

### Dominion Agreement on Seaway Tentative

The Ontario Government has signed no agreement with the Dominion Government ratifying the St. Lawrence Waterway plan, Premier Mitchell Hepburn said yesterday on the floor of the House in answering Leopold Macaulay (Con., South York).

Mr. Hepburn said that he had reached a tentative agreement with Prime Minister King, but doubted if the plan would be discussed during the present Legislature session. "I don't see how we can do anything about it until a final agreement is reached between the Dominion Parliament and the United States Congress," he said. "We can't ratify the treaty until it is signed by the Dominion Government and the United States Congress."

"But didn't Ottawa and the Provincial Government come to an agreement before the Federal Government proceeded with the plan?" Mr. Macaulay asked. "If there was an agreement it should be tabled. Was there a signed agreement between you and the Prime Minister?"

"No, there was no signed agreement," said the Premier. "There was just a tentative agreement. I am quite willing to sit in and discuss the matter with Opposition Leaders, but for the time being nothing can be done about the agreement in the Legislature."

## Half Usual Number of Bills Is Prospect for Legislature

Fewer bills, private, public and Government, have come before the present session of the Legislature than in any session during the past twenty-three years. Only twenty private bills have been introduced and advanced through the various stages, and to date there have been forty-eight proposed measures brought down, including Government bills.

The Government will introduce additional legislation in the three weeks that remain before prorogation, but the total number of bills of all kinds will scarcely reach 50 per cent of the average number introduced in other years.

Two factors are responsible for the scarcity of legislation. One is the early date on which the session was called, making it difficult for municipal bodies to learn their legislative needs, and the other is the war and the conse-

quent need for strict economy. In other years many municipalities sought permissive legislation in connection with debenture issues, but few bills of this type are before the present session.

Most municipalities have tightened their belts and decided to do without many of the improvements which they would have carried out in normal times. And there has been a saving to the Province as well. It costs money to prepare and print bills and redraft them if necessary.

## M.L.A.'s Hurl Charges Back and Forth As Electricity Leaps From New Carpet

If you hear agonizing yelps from the direction of Queen's Park these days, do not put it down to heat of battle, political or otherwise.

The cause lies deeper than any mere display of pyrotechnics touched off by interparty feuding, and so far has baffled the best scientific brains drafted by an agitated Legislature.

As a Government member moaned yesterday, while holding a charred and quivering hand, when it comes to law-making the House

can hold its own. But electricity is different—particularly electricity of the brand that quietly creeps up through your boots from the carpet and then lets off with a wham that can be heard from one end of the Chamber to the other.

Members blame it on the new red carpet, which was laid last spring prior to the visit of the King and Queen. Never, they say, have they ever paced a carpet capable of charging so much high-pressure voltage in the human form.