

## No Time Leeway to Be Given On Next Year's Car Licenses

Days of grace in purchasing 1941 motor vehicle and operators' permits will be wiped out when buying time comes around on New Year's Eve, Premier Hepburn announced yesterday in his Budget address. From this time hence, the Premier warned, licenses will be limited strictly to the calendar year.

Mr. Hepburn's announcement came as comment on the \$4,444,929 deficit on the current year's operations. "You will find a lot of people who will be criticizing the Government for the deficit running around with last year's licenses. They are

the very persons who will not buy their licenses until March 31."

From Highways Department sources it was learned that registration was more than 16,000 below that of last year. No reason for the delay could be offered, but officials were anticipating already the rush headache of the March 31 deadline, before the police are ordered to pick up drivers with 1939 plates.

While licenses are purchasable properly in accordance with the calendar year at all times, the Government has usually allowed leeway. In 1938, for example, the deadline was set at Jan. 31.

## MUNICIPAL ACT TO BE AMENDED

### Cross Would Prevent Deadlocks in Council

City Council deadlocks such as that which existed in Windsor earlier this year when Mayor Dave Croll refused to recognize a meeting called by a majority of his Councilors will be impossible in future if amendments to the Municipal Act, presented to the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Hon. Eric Cross, are passed by the House.

One amendment provides that a majority of members of a Council may petition the clerk to summon a special meeting, and a complementary clause would permit Council to appoint a presiding officer from among its members if the elected Mayor or Reeve is absent or refuses to act. Such a presiding officer, the amendment stipulates, "shall have all the powers of the head of the Council."

Another amendment presented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, would make members of school boards eligible for election to municipal councils if they resign their education posts "on or before" nomination day. The present act requires such resignation three days prior to nomination day.

Amendments to the Unwrought Metal Sales Act, presented to the House by Hon. Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines, are designed to put teeth in legislation respecting the sale of gold and other precious metals, including a clause which would make it necessary for all persons dealing in such commerce to take out special licenses.

## SERVICE LEVIES REVIEW HINTED

Service charges levied by utility companies, not only in Toronto, but elsewhere in the Province, may be reviewed shortly by the Ontario Municipal Board, Hon. Eric Cross, Minister of Municipal Affairs, intimated yesterday before the Legislature Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Cross said he was prepared to have such a review made during committee discussion of that section of a Toronto bill which asked for abolition of the 50-cent per month metre rental charged by the Consumers' Gas Company. The clause in the bill was deleted on an eight to seven division.

A bill asking the Legislature to fix the assessment basis of Lennox and Addington was approved on consideration that the assessment be subject to review by the Ontario Municipal Board. The bill was opposed by the Town of Napanee. R. O. Daly, Toronto, on behalf of the town, claimed that Napanee, from 1928 to 1938, had paid approximately 12 per cent of the county's expenses. The town, he said, claimed that it paid \$3 in taxes for every dollar of value received, and wanted its assessment cut \$350,000.

## ESTIMATES CUT FOR NEXT YEAR

**\$13,187,064 Lopped Off for \$116,504,091 Total**

The Legislature will be asked next week to vote on estimates for the fiscal year starting April 1, totalling \$116,504,091, a reduction of \$13,187,064 from those for the current fiscal year, according to data presented to the House yesterday by Premier Hepburn.

Of this amount, \$59,942,091 are statutory and \$56,562,215 are to be voted. The latter sum has been cut \$6,560,490 from last year's estimates, an action made possible by paring of every department except that of Highways and the Attorney-General's Department.

University grants escaped pruning and the University of Toronto will receive \$1,246,000; Queen's University, Kingston, \$250,000, and the University of Western Ontario, London, \$235,000. Following last year's cut in university grants, fear was held in some quarters that they would be subjected to further reduction.

Largely because of the necessity of strengthening the police force and of forming an anti-sabotage force, direct results of the war, the Attorney-General's estimates have been jumped to \$3,047,510 from \$2,565,802. Highways estimates remain at \$1,129,800. Other branches of the Government show effects of a general paring.

## Conant's Duties Are Increased Under War Act

"The war has brought added duties and responsibilities to the Attorney-General in curtailing subversive elements and in the prosecution of offenders against the Defense of Canada Regulations passed under the War Measures Act.

"The law enforcement officials of the Province are kept informed and up-to-date on the regulations by full briefs on the law and supplementary memoranda as they become necessary."—Premier Hepburn, in his Budget address.