

# CLAIMS ONTARIO LED DOMINION IN WAR PLANS

Both Parties in House  
Applaud N. O. Hipel's  
Preparedness Schemes

## POINTS TO TIME LAG

Ottawa's stop order on the production of new passenger car models, that tool and die makers might be placed in war industries, was urged on the Dominion Government by the Ontario Department of Labor a full year before the "freeze" ruling was made, Labor Minister N. O. Hipel said yesterday in the Legislature.

The Minister, in a point by point survey of the department's war work, a survey that brought applause from both sides of the House, declared also he had pressed Federal authorities, shortly after the outbreak of the war, to register skilled mechanics and to begin an industrial training program for the semi-skilled war work jobs.

The last recommendation was not acted upon until last June, and, although time was short, the joint efforts of the Labor and Education Departments rallied 4,500 men and youths for vocational training in some thirty-one vocational schools during the vacation.

Mr. Hipel made no charges against the Dominion Government, but, at the same time, left no doubt in members' minds that his department had been the initiating factor in Dominion-Provincial programs for mobilizing factory manpower.

### Saw "Tooling" Problem.

In his Budget debate speech yesterday Mr. Hipel said that, immediately after the outbreak of war, he and department officials investigated the entire problem of tooling for war production.

"This is all water over the dam," he said, "but as a result of that conference we said to Ottawa, if they wanted to go all-out in the war effort, they should forbid the output of new models of passenger cars."

He said their investigations showed that the tooling for new models in Canada required 500,000 work hours. "We felt," he added, "that the Federal Government should divert the time of engineers and tool makers for the development of engines and complete planes in Canada. However, the suggestion was not followed but was followed one year later."

(The "freeze" order on new models was announced by Hon. C. D. Howe on Nov. 20, 1940.)

Ottawa, continued Mr. Hipel, "could not see eye to eye" on the proposal to register mechanics. The Ontario department, on its own, developed its own war employment forms for registration "and finally, Ottawa did call a conference and the forms were adopted through Canada. As a result of this move, we in Ontario were able to supply thousands of men to industry."

### Suggested Older Mechanics.

He told how the department had established refresher courses for older mechanics, so that they might operate new and high speed machines. Only last night, he received assurance from Ottawa that, in the larger contracts, a clause will be inserted requiring the hiring of a proportion of older men. Earlier, he had asked Ottawa to make provision for the hiring of the first Great War veterans, men who were rejected for enlistment in the present armies and men who returned from active service.

Ninety per cent of the trainees from the first draft in the vocational schools have been placed, he said. The training program is directed by a War Training Committee composed of himself, Hon. Dr. Duncan McArthur, Minister of Education; F. S. Rutherford, Director of Vocational Training; and James Marsh, Deputy Minister of Labor.

The training "pioneered by this Province," is a joint effort with the Dominion paying the most of the costs. The Province pays administration costs and many Boards of Education are contributing as well. At the moment there are 4,000 civilian trainees and 1,000 enlisted men in the schools.