

APRIL 8

Assails 'Murder Speed' On Queen Elizabeth Way

Enlargement of the Ontario Provincial Police Highway Traffic Patrol "in the very near future," was forecast last night by Attorney-General Conant in general Legislature discussion on what Leopold Macaulay, former Minister of Highways, described the "murder speed" on Queen Elizabeth Highway.

The debate arose from Highway Traffic Act amendments which make illegal driving at night with parking lights, and authorizes cities, towns and villages to pass by-laws restricting sections of their highways to speed limits between fifteen and thirty miles.

"Have you anything in mind to cut down the murder speed rate on the four-lane highway between here and Niagara Falls?" asked Mr. Macaulay (Con., South York).

He said he viewed an increasing accident rate with alarm—a rate, which he said, has increased despite the expenditure on shrubs, trees and grade separation.

"We've got to start over again in safety campaigns. Apparently the expenditure of money alone in building highways or running fancy ads in the newspapers is not enough. Personally, I feel unsafe driving on that highway. I seem to be going backwards the way the cars pass me and then I look at the speedometer and I am driving 50 or 55 and they must be doing 80 or 90."

Highway Minister McQuesten said he did not believe the accident rate was out of line with the traffic volume. A peak of 36,000 was counted on the Queen Elizabeth Way last year and an average summer day was rated at 16,000 cars. "It is quite apparent that people have got to learn how to drive on this type of highway, but so far as excessive rate of speed is concerned, I think the member is exaggerating considerably when he speaks of rates of 80 and 90 miles per hour," he said.

In suggesting an expansion in the Patrol force was required, Mr. Conant said highways have been expanded considerably faster than has the number of patrol men.

W. J. Stewart (Con., Parkdale), suggested the Department as a safety measure should re-examine drivers.

Huge Increase In Power Seen

In the Legislature yesterday Premier Hepburn read and tabled a letter from Dr. T. H. Hogg, chairman of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission, in which it was stated that the power resources of the commission next December would be 300,000 horsepower in excess of the demand for primary power at the end of December, 1940.

The Prime Minister stated that he was tabling the letter to strengthen the denial that Ontario faced a power shortage. Last week he presented a report from Chief Engineer John Dibblee, who also showed that there is no danger of a power shortage in the Province.