

March 31

## Bill Proposes to Tax Area for Medical Care

Legislative authority for the 1,500 residents of St. Joseph Island, twenty-five miles from Sault Ste Marie, to establish a contributory medical plan through taxation, will be sought shortly in a bill that is sponsored by W. L. Miller, Lib., Algoma-Manitoulin.

Mr. Miller said yesterday the plan is similar to that which is being advocated by Federation of Agriculture groups throughout Ontario. Shortly before the present Ontario session opened, a delegation, of which many spokesmen were affiliated with the federation, appeared before Premier Hepburn and Cabinet members and asked legislative action on the plan.

Mr. Miller said his bill proposed that the municipalities on St. Joseph's Island, of which there are three townships and one village, should be given authority to submit the plan to the residents on a ballot. If carried, residents would be assessed specific amounts to cover the cost of medical services and the municipalities in turn would pay a doctor or doctors a fixed salary or salaries in payment of services.

St. Joseph's Island, he said, was a self-contained economic unit which had a large resident summer tourist business. About ten years ago, a citizen of the United States had built a hospital in memory of her husband and the hospital is operated by the Red Cross. At certain periods of the year, when ice conditions are adverse, the island is completely isolated.

Some years ago, he said, when the island's physician-surgeon was about to leave, from inability to collect adequate fees in the normal manner, residents organized and guaranteed voluntary contributions on the basis of family size. Almost 90 per cent of the residents signed up and promised to make these fixed contributions which are collected through civic offices and turned over to the doctor.

Mr. Miller said the plan had proved inadequate and cumbersome. The factor of population movement had resulted also in instability in the amounts collected.

"Each municipality in the island," said Mr. Miller, "has petitioned the Government to give its support to the proposal."

## Plan Throne Speech Debate Before Budget Presentation

The Ontario Legislature today will buckle down to two days of debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, will wind up the debate Wednesday and clear procedure for Premier Hepburn's budget presentation on Thursday.

This program was made definite late yesterday when Chief Government Whip Ian Strachan said two speakers from each side of the Chamber will present addresses on Tuesday. W. J. Stewart, Cons., Toronto-Parkdale, will lead off the debate. Other speakers will be Alex Elliott, Lib., Peterborough, who leaves directly on active service; James Cooper, Lib., Sudbury, and W. A. Summerville, Cons., Toronto-Riverdale.

The House sat for barely twenty minutes yesterday and gave second reading to Mr. Cooper's amendment

to the Juror's Act, which is designed to simplify and eliminate waste time in the selection of jurors. It also advanced two minor bills in health legislation through committee stage. Major interest rested in the clause which permitted milk pasteurization by the quick "flash" method.