

APRIL 3

Ontario's Departments To Cost \$60,309,636

Estimates of \$60,309,636 for financing departments of the Provincial Government—the highest in Ontario's history—were placed before the Legislature yesterday by Premier Hepburn. The figure exceeded last year's estimates by \$1,969,164.

Major factors in the increase, according to a comparison with the 1941-42 amounts, is an accelerated health program and cost of living bonus payments to the civil service,

the latter expenditure amounting to \$861,084.

The increase in funds to be voted, however, is offset in the totals, chiefly by a \$9,286,200 reduction in the statutory Department of Highways account. In summary, estimates to be voted, and the statutory estimates for 1942-43 amount to \$120,024,468 as compared with the \$127,926,426, total for the past fiscal year.

In the Department of Health, through a program that is directly associated with the war effort, especially in the laboratory work that is being performed on behalf of the armed forces, and a general policy of maintaining health in war-time, there is an estimated increase of \$1,065,795 in expenditures.

Broken down, the figures show an increase of \$28,900 in laboratories, \$32,880 in the laboratory divisions, \$26,590 in tuberculosis prevention; prevention of communicable diseases, \$59,850; hospitals, general offices, \$465,700; hospitals, grants, \$146,000; and Ontario hospitals, \$195,975.

As stated by the Premier in his Budget address, the Department of Education expenditures will be increased \$611,622—the increase being earmarked almost entirely for technical training, for training men and women for munitions work, and for training pre-enlisted men for technical services in the armed forces.

Curtailment in general expenses is indicated in every department to meet the added cost of the cost-of-living bonuses and the extra payments which are allied with the war effort.

Public welfare is increased \$107,545 to \$19,031,870. Among its larger items is a \$28,600 increase in the grants to refuges and orphanages and a \$20,775 increase to the Children's Aid Branch.

Drop Change in Municipal Act As 'Public Uneasiness' Felt

The bill to give the Department of Municipal Affairs greater supervisory powers over Ontario municipalities, is to be withdrawn by Hon. T. B. McQuesten "in view of public uneasiness existing." Mr. McQuesten said yesterday he had received numerous representations on the matter.

The bill was introduced in the Legislature last Friday as an amendment to the Department of Municipal Affairs Act. One of its main purposes, as explained later by Deputy

Minister A. J. B. Gray, was to ensure that funds allocated by a municipality for a certain purpose were used for that purpose only. There was no intention of stripping the municipalities of their powers, Mr. Gray emphasized.

In announcing his intention to withdraw the bill, Mr. McQuesten said: "As the act stands now the powers desired under the amendment are invested with the Ontario Municipal Board, and I propose to let it stand at that."