

Health Tax Bill Introduced With Government Approval

The first legislative authority that has been sought in Ontario for permission for a municipality to assess ratepayers the cost of maintaining a physician was introduced yesterday in the Legislature by Health Minister H. J. Kirby.

The bill would authorize the four municipalities of St. Joseph's Island, twenty-five miles from Sault Ste. Marie, to submit the question to the electors, and, in event of a two-third majority assent, the municipal administrations will be empowered to levy the health costs tax upon rateable property and, in cases where the inhabitant is not a property owner

and he is more than 21, to levy a poll tax.

Mr. Kirby explained that originally the bill was to have been submitted by its main sponsor, W. L. Miller, Liberal, Algoma-Manitoulin, as a private bill. Certain delay made it impossible to have it brought in as a private bill. "The department has no objection to the bill and, as a matter of fact, it is now being brought in as a Government bill," he said.

According to Mr. Miller, the island residents, under a voluntary plan, for some time have been contributing sums to make up a salary for their resident physician-surgeon.

ASKS MORE AID FOR FARMERS

A. Acres Would Revive Development Board

Re-establishment of the Agricultural Development Board to assist the farmer was advocated in the Legislature yesterday by A. H. Acres (Con., Carleton) in a budget debate address. He declared that the Government was in a position to borrow money much cheaper than could the farmer, and financial assistance should be afforded the men engaged in agriculture. He termed the farmer the "neglected man."

"Neither this Government nor the previous one ever gave agriculture the consideration to which it is entitled," said Mr. Acres. The Ontario Hydro Commission catered to the big centres of population and did not give the rural sections justice in the matter of power distribution and cost, he asserted. He declared that much of the beneficial legislation concerning agriculture, placed on the statute books by previous Governments, had been removed by the present Administration. He blamed former Agriculture Minister Duncan Marshall in this respect.

Mr. Acres touched on various phases of governmental activity, but the main theme of his address was that more must be done for the farmer in view of the importance of large-scale agricultural production. In his closing remarks he criticized the C.C.F. Party for holding a convention on Good Friday, expressing the view that this was not the act of loyal and devoted Canadians.