

APRIL 16

Scores Failure to Name New Mines Minister

The Ontario Legislature, at 11:30C last night, concluded its consideration of the estimates for 1942-43 and approved funds totalling \$120,024,468, broken into two categories, \$60,309,636, which was voted, and \$59,714,831, statutory.

Final speaker in the estimates debate was Frank Spence (Cons., Fort William), who pleaded for "real management and drive at the head of the Department of Mines in the interests of the war effort."

Mr. Spence criticized Premier Hepburn for not having made a permanent appointment following the resignation of Robert Laurier (Lib., Ottawa East). Mr. Laurier disagreed with the Premier when Mr. Hepburn supported Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, Dominion Conservative Leader, in the South York by-election. The resignation has not yet been accepted.

"If he is ill and cannot return to his business, the Premier should give a statement as to what he intends to do to revive the mining industry in the face of the apparent and very urgent need."

Labor Minister Peter Heenan is Acting Minister of Mines. In further reference to Mr. Laurier, the Fort William member said: "The department hasn't functioned and cannot function under a newly created Minister who is in the unfortunate position of being neither in nor out of the Cabinet."