

Conant Will Introduce Reconstruction Measure

Ontario Plans Co-operation With Ottawa in Creating Enduring Welfare Legislation

By RALPH HYMAN

The Conant Government at this session will introduce a bill to provide for the establishment of a committee to study social security and postwar rehabilitation of members of the armed forces and civilians, it was learned on good authority at Queen's Park yesterday.

Under consideration for many months, the Government is now prepared to place the entire matter before the Legislature. A resolution expressing the desirability of adopting measures to supplement those already on the statutes will likely be discussed in the House this week. It was reported that Premier Conant has given notice of motion in connection with the resolution and that the text of the resolution will be printed in today's Votes and Proceedings.

Bill in Two Weeks.

The bill to provide for the establishment of a committee is expected to come before the Legislature within two weeks. The Government canvassed the Liberal caucus yesterday on the subject and later, it is understood a Cabinet Council meeting placed its approval on the question of bringing in a bill. Present indications point to a committee consisting of persons outside the House, though probably the personnel will contain several members of the Legislature.

Ontario is prepared to move along the road to social security and postwar rehabilitation in co-operation with the Dominion, and it is believed the resolution to come before the House will voice the willingness of the Provincial Government to confer with Ottawa with a view to obtain-

ing uniformity of legislation. The Ontario Cabinet is said to be determined to lay a solid and enduring basis on which to rear social security and rehabilitation systems.

The Dominion Government has taken certain steps toward implementing its pledge of social security. In the Speech from the Throne it was stated: "It is in the general interest that freedom from fear and from want should be the assured possession of all. A nation-wide plan which would provide insurance against the inevitable consequences of major economic and social hazards is essential if this objective is to be attained."

Ontario is acknowledged to be the leading Province in Canada in regard to advanced social legislation, and the Ontario Department of Health is held in high respect by the Dominion authorities for its accomplishments. Health Minister Harold Kirby is reported to be convinced that Ontario must continue to move forward along the lines already mapped out and to shape its legislation to meet the needs of the postwar era. All members of the Cabinet are said to agree.

Ottawa Conference Forecast.

The policy of co-operation with Ottawa, inaugurated by Premier Conant, is likely to result in conferences at Ottawa between Provincial and Federal officials. At these conferences it is certain that Ontario, by virtue of its position, will take a leading role. If the legislation adopted by the Dominion is not considered by Ontario to go far enough, the Province may bridge any gap with legislation of its own. In any event, Ontario plans to make sure that the postwar period will not find the Province handicapped by lack of legal machinery to battle the problems that will arise.

The proposed social security committee will be given wide powers, it is reported. Outstanding figures in various fields will be asked to serve on this body, including representatives of the armed forces. The abolition of poverty, disease and unemployment will be cited by the Conant resolution as being vital to complete victory, and it will be on this non-partisan ground that the Legislature will be asked to approve it. The committee to be set up will report its findings to the Government.