

ditions. But services are being continued to preserve the wild life for a return of tourist business after the war. Propagation and distribution of fish in suitable waters also is not being curtailed, and more than 693,000,000 fish have been liberated during 11 months of the current operating year. Capital expenditures, however, have been confined mostly to improving buildings on hatchery properties, with economy being carried even to the elimination of metal hunting license badges.

Lowest T.B. Death Rate.

Ontario last year had the lowest tuberculosis death rate in Canada, the Minister reported, though the year "opened with a challenge which at the outset seemed insurmountable." Health of civilian peoples of the Province had been maintained "on levels that are eminently satisfactory and widely acclaimed." Typhoid also has been reduced to the lowest figure on record, a death rate of .26 per 100,000 of population. Other related diseases of sanitation had shown corresponding reduction, chiefly through greater supervision over water and milk supplies. Mass X-ray examinations in war industry, with more than 135,000 examinations already conducted, had aided materially in the fight against tuberculosis, more dangerous in wartime than in peace.

Mr. Gordon summarized other health achievements in Ontario's wartime picture as: Prevention of spread from army camp to camp

through the Province of any outbreak of diphtheria; extensive work for the armed forces by the Division of Laboratories; loan of a department physician as medical director for the Allied War Supplies Corporation; \$74,000 spent in the first three years of war to combat venereal disease in the armed forces. In the wartime pressure on child life and maternal mortality Ontario has lost fewer mothers than ever before with a new low in maternal mortality of 3 per 1,000 living births, and the threatened increase in infant mortality, Mr. Gordon said, had been held to an increase of 2.3 or 45.2 deaths per 1,000 living births, as against 42.9 the previous year.

Highway Improvements.

"No Province or State on this continent can show higher types of highways, more scientifically designed structures or a more efficient network of secondary roads," Mr. Gordon reported. "Alignment, grades and structures incorporated into the trunk highways will stand for generations." The Province had assumed the entire cost of main highways, and counties and townships were now receiving dollar for dollar and in some poorer and sparsely settled sections even greater help. Extension of four-lane highways to relieve congestion on the main tourist and industrial routes in Southern Ontario had reached 180 miles.

Highway Department expenditures from Nov. 1, 1934, to Feb. 28, 1943, were given as \$218,349,450.72 on capital and maintenance, with revenue in the same period of \$255,321,734.81 with a steady increase in motor vehicle registrations.

Capital expenditures on King's Highways and secondary roads last year were kept to projects needed immediately in the war effort. They included the Niagara border connections, improvement of the routes from Niagara and Fort Erie to Windsor and Sarnia.

"The opening of the Trans-Canada Highway has given Canada its first coast-to-coast route, ready for military needs if the necessity arises," the Minister reported. Other roads included part of a direct connection between military camps at Camp Borden and Petawawa and roads to meet the needs of war industries from Toronto to Oshawa and south from Sarnia.

With passenger traffic down, increased truckloadings are reported on all main highways. Reconstruction on trunk highways will be necessary in the coming year where pavements have been in service more than 20 years, and designed for lighter vehicles. Construction will be carried out in completing the Geraldton to Hearst connection of the new Trans-Canada Highway across Northern Ontario and post-war highway plans are being prepared.

The Ontario Labor Department's co-operation with the Dominion-Provincial War Emergency Training Program was cited by Mr. Gordon as "the most shining example" of its part in the war effort. Close to 100,000 men and women of Ontario had been enrolled to meet the demands of industry and the fighting forces for skilled and semi-skilled workers; 23,000 of them had been trained for the armed forces. Instruction had been conducted in 42 vocational schools and the Aircraft Training School now has an enrolment of over 1,000.