

## INTRODUCE BILL FOR PROTECTION OF SERVICEMEN

Seek to Ensure Homes for Families During War's Duration

First reading was given in the Legislature yesterday to a Government bill which gives protection to members of the armed forces and their dependents against loss of their homes through non-payment of mortgages, taxes or rent. The bill was introduced by Premier Conant.

The bill sets out that where a judge is satisfied that the defendant's inability to pay is attributable to the fact that he is a member of the armed forces, he may make such order staying or postponing proceedings as he deems proper. The privileges extended to members of the armed forces under the terms of the bill are extended to any dependent of a member whose inability to comply with the terms of a mortgage is due to military service.

Relief with regard to arrears of taxes against lands is also provided, and the bill prohibits any action to collect taxes from a member of the armed forces, or his dependents, without the approval of a judge. Similar provision is made in connection with arrears of rent.

No interference with loans made under the Dominion acts is contemplated by the provisions of the Government bill. The legislation comes into effect on the day upon which it receives Royal assent "and remains in force until the day upon which the cessation of hostilities between Canada and Germany, Italy and Japan shall be deemed to occur."

## RAISE MINIMUM TEACHERS' PAY, SAYS M'ARTHUR

Education Minister Announces Increase Before Legislature

The minimum salary for teachers in Ontario will be raised from \$600 annually to \$800, Education Minister Dr. Duncan McArthur told the Legislature yesterday. Provision for the increase is contained in the School Law Amendment Act which was given first reading.

The number of teachers affected by the salary boost is not now very large, it was learned from Dr. McArthur later. Last fall, the Department of Education made known to school inspectors of Ontario the proposal to raise the minimum. Since that time, the department used its influence to have salaries raised to \$800.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation has discussed the salary question with Dr. McArthur and his officials. The federation desired a minimum of \$1,000, but the department felt that it was advisable to proceed by easy stages toward the \$1,000 objective.

There is a feeling, that should the war end next year, there would be a substantial movement of teachers back to the profession and difficulty might be encountered in holding the minimum above \$800.

Another change proposed in the amendment is a reduction from three to one in personnel of the teachers' board of reference. In future, the board will consist of one member, a county judge. Dr. McArthur's bill also seeks to have the present law regarding a contract between a teacher and a school board made in writing.

"We propose to put teeth into the act by giving the Minister power of re-instating a teacher, if in the opinion of the Minister, such re-instatement is warranted. It will give more leverage," said Dr. McArthur.

## Legislature Is Disposed to Allow M.P.P.'s to Read Statistical Speeches

The Ontario Legislature rule prohibiting reading of speeches by members in the House is to be relaxed hereafter. The decision was reached last night just after Hon. H. J. Kirby, Minister of Health, had begun the reading of his budget speech, replete with statistical data of the Health Department.

Complaints over reading speeches have arisen so often this session that Mr. Speaker gave warning in the afternoon that he would enforce the rule. Last night as Mr. Kirby began his speech Mr. Speaker declared he intended to "bear down severely."

Mr. Kirby appealed to the indulgence of the House and was supported by both Premier Conant and Opposition Leader George Drew.

Opinion was that in cases of technical matter and speeches to which speakers might have to attach some future consequence, indulgence should be granted, especially, as Col. Drew remarked, since the House had no Hansard and since there had been "such extraordinary bursts of imagination at times" as to what had been said by members. He felt equal consideration should be given, of course, to Opposition.