

## Scurry for Missing Million Bestirs Ontario Legislature

Passing \$22,106,590 estimates for Health and Public Welfare Departments last night, the Ontario Legislature ran into an unexpected problem—the mystery of the missing million.

It cropped up when W. J. Stewart (Prog. Con., Toronto Parkdale) demanded to know why the Public Welfare estimates of \$9,521,900 did not include \$1,200,000 allowed in the Budget for direct relief and the cost of its administration. Nobody seemed to know. There was a hurried scurrying on the Treasury benches to discover what other department the item might be under. Premier Conant assured the House that there was "no need to worry; the item would be regularized later." Somebody suggested the million was "in the pants pocket of the overall surplus."

Provincial Treasurer Hon. St. Clair Gordon began to explain that

it was a statutory item, but was interrupted by George S. Henry (Prog. Con., York East) with: "Your speech isn't the estimates. Why isn't it in the Treasury estimates?" Opposition Leader George Drew added: "This book presumably contains the estimates for the coming year. Let's know where it is." Marquhar Oliver (Lib., Grey South), one-time Minister of Welfare, said it wasn't in the estimates last year. Asked where they got the money, he said he didn't know where it came from.

"Where's the missing million?" reiterated Mr. Stewart.

Final explanation from Treasurer Gordon was that it was always paid out of consolidated revenue, under Order-in-Council. Mr. Stewart observed: "We're sick of Orders-in-Council."

But the mystery of the missing million, which had the House in a dither for a time, had been solved.

## Youth Fitness Program Planned for Ontario

Ontario is to have a youth fitness and recreational program modelled on the lines of the national youth movement in Britain. Premier Conant told the Legislature yesterday in the course of winding up the Budget speech debate.

The Premier tabled copies of correspondence between his Government and the Government at Ottawa concerning a national youth program, and announced that it was the intention of Ontario to co-operate fully with the Dominion in the development of this plan. He predicted that at least 300,000 boys and girls of Ontario would enrol.

"I want to make it clear that there is no intention of disturbing any of the existing organizations or any of the work that is being done in this direction," said the Premier. "We have some remarkably fine organizations in Ontario now functioning along these lines. The intention is to assist these existing bodies in every possible way; to extend their work, usefulness and effectiveness; to provide facilities which may not now be available and generally throughout the Province to make effective to the highest possible degree activities promoting youth recreation, youth health, youth morale and youth betterment."

Included in the estimates of the Department of Education was an item of \$250,000 to be devoted to the youth plan, which, the Premier said, might be termed the "Ontario Youth Program."

The Premier pointed to the growth of juvenile delinquency not only in Ontario but all across Canada, and asserted that a youth program would go far toward solving this grave problem.

"It is intended that under our

Minister of Education a director devoting his full time to the youth program plan will be appointed either from his present staff or by obtaining from outside the best man available," said Mr. Conant. "In addition, a Provincial council for the youth program, comprising recognized leaders and authorities in such work, will be constituted as an advisory board. From that may develop regional or district representatives, but the further details remain to be worked out as soon as time permits."

The Premier said Ontario was prepared to go "all out" in such a youth program, but the institution of the plan was conditional upon the co-operation of the Dominion Government. He was satisfied, however, that this co-operation would be forthcoming, quoting from a statement made by Pensions Minister Ian Mackenzie and a letter from Gen. L. R. LaFleche, Minister of the Department of National War Services.