

APRIL 3.

## *Increase Widows' Allowances By Compensation Act Changes*

When the Legislature gave second reading yesterday to the bill amending the Workmen's Compensation Act to extend its benefits in several respects, Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Labor, cited figures which he said indicated that "the benefits under the act can well be extended and industry can stand the extra cost."

The amendments increase widows' pensions under the act from \$40 to \$45 a month, provide for a maximum pension of 66 2-3 per cent of \$2,500 instead of \$2,000 salary, provide that full earnings be paid if the percentage of salary falls below this figure and that children come under the act up to 18 instead of 16, provided benefits be devoted to their education. Widows with one child will receive \$55 instead of \$50

a month, and with two or more children \$55 plus \$10 for each additional child over one. "The more children the more money until the maximum is reached," the Minister explained.

In saying that industry could afford the increased cost, Mr. Heenan stated that assessment on industry had been "fairly uniform" since the act went into force Jan. 1, 1915. At that time it was \$1.24 per \$100 of payroll. Now it is only \$1.10 in spite of increased benefits. Since the act went into force \$163,072,290.11 has been paid in benefits on 1,702,128 industrial accidents.

Accidents are "alarmingly" on the increase, largely because of war industry, Mr. Heenan said. They had risen from 81,116 in 1940 to 113,822 in 1941, and 133,513 in 1942.