

February 23

# Limit Labor's Work Week to 48 Hours

Religious education will be offered in public and secondary schools of Ontario and cadet training, under school control, will become a part of the regular educational program, it was announced in the Speech from the Throne read at the opening of the Ontario Legislature yesterday. The 5,000-word Speech was one of the longest of its kind on record.

The subject of religious education was dealt with in one sentence and no detail was afforded. The duties of citizenship and significance of Canadian institutions "will be given a more important place in the school curriculum," it was stated.

Greater incentives will be offered to encourage the formation of school areas large enough to provide and enrich elementary programs and diversified secondary education. Education of new Canadians was of vital concern to all Canadians, it was stressed, and a special committee would be appointed to advise the Government in planning an effective program for those among this group who require special education to gain the full advantage of their Canadian citizenship.

## 48-Hour Week.

Increases in teachers' salaries was also forecast in the Throne Speech. Several bills for the improvement of labor relations, one to limit the work week to 48 hours and to assure an annual holiday of one week with pay for commercial and industrial workers, will be introduced by the Government. The new Dominion labor relations

code making collective bargaining compulsory in war industry would be extended to all industries in the Province, it was announced.

The Speech was a preview of the whole range of Government legislation, most of the proposed measures being implementation of the 22-point platform of the Progressive Conservative Party.

There was stress laid on agriculture and an outline was given of the policy of creating county agricultural committees, the taking over of the Union Stock Yards and other measures designed to improve the lot of the farmer and increase production. The agricultural buildings loaned to the Dominion for war training purposes would soon revert to the Province once more, it was announced. Those at Kemptonville would be made available for Provincial purposes May 1 and those at Guelph at the earliest possible opportunity.

## Protect Armed Forces.

Legislation to afford legal protection to members of the armed forces from Ontario who are on active service, where such service renders it impossible for them to meet their financial obligations incurred prior to enlisting, will be introduced by the Government. A bill to establish priority of appointment to the public service for men and women who have served in active service units will also be introduced.

One permit, instead of three, will be required in future for the purchase of spirits, beer and wine. The situation in respect to Dominion restrictions was outlined.

The Speech contained a brief reference to the Active Service Election Act, which provided for proxy voting for members of the armed forces serving outside Ontario. An amendment would be introduced, it was stated. No details were given.

Creation of an Ontario Forest Resources Commission to supervise the development of the 100 million acres of accessible Crown forests under the control of the Lands and Forests Department was forecast.

## Four-Year Postwar Program.

Dealing with the Highways Department, it was announced that a four-year postwar program had been evolved, involving a total of 27,840,000 man-hours for completion of the work contemplated.

A reduction in power charges by the Hydro Commission would follow amalgamation of the Georgian Bay, Niagara and Eastern Ontario systems, it was declared. To bring about closer association between the commission and power consumers, a bill would be introduced providing for the appointment of a five-man advisory council to the Provincial commission. Reference was made to the establishment of a uniform rate for power in all areas of the Province served by 120 rural power districts.

"During the past two months the commission has been able to install electric services on more than 2,000 additional farms under arrangements with the Dominion Metals Controller," the speech stated.

There was commendation for municipalities which have been setting up reserve funds from unspent appropriations for construction and maintenance. Municipal legislation forecast included an amendment to the Municipal Act to permit municipalities to levy an additional business assessment to compensate for the tax on incomes and corporations suspended by Dominion-Provincial agreement.

## Health Service.

A full-time public health program including adequate school health service was "long overdue," the Throne Speech declared. Therefore, it was planned to make it possible for local municipalities to implement Section 35 of the Public Health Act, which already provides for such service.

"The provision of adequate hospital care for all our citizens will require some time to fulfil, but certain immediate steps are being taken to bring this about," it was stated. "Committees have been set up to study the problem with a view to inaugurating a new policy."

As a first step toward meeting the problem of overcrowding in the 15 Provincial mental hospitals, an additional 300 beds would be made available at the Orillia hospital. In addition a division of psychiatric research had been organized and it was proposed to extend mental health clinics to serve all parts of Ontario as soon as staff was available.

With regard to postwar planning, the Speech forecast legislation to set up a new Department of Planning and Development. Purpose of this department was defined as preparing plans in all fields of Provincial responsibility so that development of the great resources of the Province would provide full employment.