

March 1.

Wood-Shortage Danger Is Real, Declares Drew

A shortage of commercial wood has become a real danger in some areas of Ontario, Premier George Drew told the Legislature yesterday. Continuing his adjourned address in the Throne Speech debate, the Premier told of his Government's intention to create a forest resources commission to safeguard the forests under long-range plans.

Proper cutting methods would prevent ghost towns in the Province, similar to some of the run-down communities in mining areas where the mines were exhausted, the Premier said. Timber cutting operations with lavish disregard of the future had made a shortage of commercial wood a real danger, he declared.

Pointing to the record of Scandinavian countries in connection with forest operations, the Premier said there was no reason why Ontario should not be just as successful as Sweden, Norway and Finland in preserving and properly exploiting forest wealth. A great era of expansion in the use of wood products was dawning, he stressed, and it imposed upon the Government the

necessity of most careful supervision. Under non-political direction as would be given by a commission, long-range plans could be made, he said. The forest resources commission to be set up by the Government would be divorced from politics and would be given full administrative powers, the Premier said.

"Sound forestry practice demands that we have the same stands of timber 20, 50 or 100 years from now," continued Premier Drew. "Our forest resources are not for this generation alone, but for future generations as well."

One of the first acts of his Government upon taking office was to bring back to the Crown 13 million acres of forest land, the Premier told the House. These contracts had been cancelled because the agreements were not fulfilled.

"This area has been brought back under control of the Government and will be administered for the people of the whole Province," the Premier declared.

The reopening of Ontario House and the aims the Government hopes it will achieve were dealt with by the Premier in his concluding remarks.

GROUP TO AID ONTARIO HYDRO

The Drew Government introduced in the Legislature yesterday a bill to set up an advisory committee to assist the Ontario Hydro Commission. Introduced by Hydro Vice-Chairman G. H. Challies, the bill proposes a council of five members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to hold office for two years or longer within the pleasure of the Lieutenant-Governor. The chairman, to be chosen by the members, will hold office for one year. Members will receive a per diem allowance and expenses. House members are excluded from appointment.

Labor Minister Charles Daley introduced an amendment to the Apprenticeship Act providing for qualification certificates. Filing in a central office of all Provincial regulations and their publication is provided for in a bill presented by Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell.

Drew Legislation Sets Speed Mark

A speed record for passage of legislation was chalked up by the Drew Government in the first week of the Legislature session which ended yesterday. Seven Government bills were given third and final reading and now await Royal Assent. This is the most rapid action in recent Provincial history for passage of measures so early in the session.

Ontario to Have 'Sparkman Act'

Legislation patterned along the lines of the Sparkman Act in the United States, which protects the financial status of men and women in the active service forces, will be introduced in the Legislature by the Government. It will implement the Drew Government's pledge to afford legal protection to men and women from Ontario whose military service prevents them from meeting financial obligations incurred prior to enlistment.

It was the view of the Ontario Government that a national act should be passed by Parliament in this connection, but the Dominion authorities did not see the matter in this light. Consequently the Drew Government will bring in a bill to accomplish the desired objective.