

March 4

Prevent M.P.'s Sitting On Roads Commissions

The Legislature yesterday accepted a C.C.F. amendment to the Highway Improvement Act which will prevent members of the Legislature from sitting as members of suburban roads commissions, from which council members are now excluded. William

Dennison (C. C. F., Toronto-St. David) who submitted the amendment, explained after the House rose that George S. Henry, Morgan Baker and W. H. Gardhouse had sat on the commission which extended the Toronto and York roads system 255 miles since its inception in 1911, at a cost to Toronto of \$100,000 annually. The 30-mile limit, he said, had been extended to 50 without Toronto's approval.

"We now build main streets 20 feet wide," he said, "through Woodbridge, Forest Hill, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Aurora. My amendment will prevent M.P.'s from sitting on these bodies—will eliminate some bad cases of local patronage."

Sugar Beet Subsidy.

Agriculture Minister T. L. Kennedy's bill to extend the sugar beet subsidy from 55 cents to \$1.55 per ton up to \$225,000 was sent to the Agriculture Committee on second reading, for consideration Wednesday morning. Payment of subsidy beyond the total specified will be a company responsibility, the Minister explained.

"We are making this subsidy payment for two reasons," the Minister said. "One is as a purely war expenditure to increase production; the other to emphasize that sugar-beet growing is a direct contribution to the war, since about half the Allies' sugar supplies are from beets." He was afraid, too, he said, that if Ontario factories were closed machinery would be removed from the Province.

Ten bills were given third reading at the two-hour session yesterday, including the Wartime Housing Act bill providing for collection by municipalities of taxes in arrears to 1940 on houses erected by Wartime Housing at an agreed rate of \$24 and \$30.

The Throne Speech debate will be continued Monday by private members, with J. B. Salsberg (L.P., Toronto-St. Andrew) leading off.