

DREW STRESSES SPORTS VALUE TO LABOR MEN

The Ontario Government urged that the national labor code be applied to all industry, not just war industry, and regretted that the Dominion Government had limited its application, but Ontario intends to apply the new code to all industry, Premier George Drew yesterday told a large delegation from the Trades and Labor Congress, Ontario Section, at Queen's Park.

The Premier said also, speaking of the proposed Dominion health legislation: "There is no opposition from here, because we don't know what it is they propose to do. We have neither rejected it nor approved."

The deputation presented a brief on desired legislation covering various labor problems, postwar planning, old-age pensions, mothers' allowances, an emergency training plan and changes in the Ontario Liquor Control Act. The brief was submitted by John Gavin, chairman of the Ontario executive; J. W. Buckley, John Noble, and other prominent labor officials.

Valuable Experience.

"We will attempt to give the best possible administration to the code," the Premier promised, adding that Ontario hoped to gain experience from it that would be valuable later. He stressed the advantages of sports, in commenting on a suggestion that the Government encourage "all recognized sports and entertainments, owing to the spiritual and mental strain during this time of crisis." Sports, he said, taught people "to meet each other on equal terms," and led to "a better approach to healthy understanding."

The Government, he said, intended to make full use of the postwar employment committee, which had met only briefly before the election, and so had created the new department of planning and development to co-ordinate all scattered activities.

Hurts War Effort.

The labor brief expressed its recognition that "the present Government was not originally involved in curtailment of beer and is without power to rectify it at its source, except as to the effect that a forthright condemnation to the Dominion Government of the consequences that have been produced." It added: "These consequences are deplorable and totally unnecessary, and in no wise contribute to the successful prosecution of the war, but the contrary."

It suggested that furtherance of temperance and control depended on definite statement that the Ontario Legislature "cannot be overpowered and overridden in its jurisdiction by the Federal Government," and that the liquor laws "must be local."