

March 11.

LABOR CODE IS 'FANTASTIC,' SAYS MILLARD

Condemning the new Federal Labor Code as "fantastic, bad legislation and a deceitful and defective document," C. H. Millard (C.C.F., York West) urged in the Legislature yesterday that the Ontario Government abandon it in favor of "the bill put forward by the members representing organized labor."

Concluding the C.C.F. Opposition's contribution to the Throne Speech debate, Mr. Millard said the legislation offered by the Government is "very disappointing and falls far short of its pre-election manifesto." The proposal for a 48-hour week, he said, should start at 40 hours "with an escalator clause reducing it by an hour for the next four years." No amendment to the Speech from the Throne was offered by the C.C.F.

"If we are going to have full utilization of manpower," he declared, "it is not realistic to talk of a 48-hour week."

He pointed out also that when work hours are reduced, labor and the farmer will need more money "because they'll have more time to spend it," so that maintaining the wage level should not be considered. Instead, it should be raised.

"I don't think we dare consider reduction of hours without a corresponding provision against reduction in wages," he said.

Action in Commons.

He pointed out that Rodney Adamson, Progressive Conservative M.P. for West York, had condemned the code before the Order-in-Council had been tabled in the Commons and it seemed "peculiar" that a Progressive Conservative Government intended to apply it to all Ontario industry. He asked the Government to reconsider its position. He suggested, too, that the whole labor question be aired before a House committee that should be widely representative.

The legislation to provide one week's holiday with pay would, he predicted, "be totally inadequate when war production becomes unnecessary."

The Ontario Government had promised the best industrial legislation in the world, a sweeping statement, he pointed out. If the Ottawa policy was bad and did not achieve uniformity across the country, then extending it to Ontario industry would prove harmful.

Higher Pensions.

Mr. Millard called for the meeting on postwar problems now, to some extent, for they existed now for those coming back. He urged fulfilment of the promise that "old-age pensioners no longer would be subject to harsh treatment," and called for increases in old-age pensions and mothers' allowances and wiping out of the necessity for their parting with their homes to become eligible. He believed a strong and forthright Government could make the dream of a full and better life come true.

Greater consideration was needed, he maintained, for extension of social services, for, he said, instead of "security from the cradle to the grave" treatment now being accorded aged, widows and orphans "is more apt to result in fewer cradles and in security only in the grave."

More Beds Needed.

Instead of providing 300 additional beds for Ontario's mentally ill, Mr. Millard said 4,828 were needed at once.

Lauding the Province's postwar roads program to give employment, he said it was still inadequate. The four-year plan, he maintained, would provide jobs for only 22,091 persons, or 3 per cent of the 700,000 estimated to require jobs in Ontario at war's end.

Commending the \$1-a-ton increase in the sugar beet subsidy, he promised his party's full support "to see that the farmer gets what he should have." He insisted that present restrictions on gasoline and oil would not have been necessary if Athabaska tar sands had been developed. And he called on the Government to disclose its full plans for postwar reconstruction and employment, to allay fears and let the people know what to expect. "Any other course," he said, "would be cowardly."

Plans to complete the Throne Speech debate by week-end did not materialize yesterday. Dana H. Porter (P.C., Toronto-St. George) will bring it to a close Tuesday. The House will consider bills Monday.