

Forest Resources Commission Sponsored in Ontario Measure

The creation of an Ontario Forest Resources Commission consisting of a chairman and four other members is proposed under an amendment to the Forestry Act given first reading in the Legislature yesterday.

Duties of the commission, pledged by the Progressive Conservative Party in its 22-point platform, include carrying on research work and investigations for the conservation, development and beneficial utilization of the forests in Ontario. The commission may also deal with improvement of methods of planting, developing, utilizing and marketing forest trees upon Crown lands and the lands of lessees, licensees and concessionaires of the Crown.

"The Commission may generally do such things as it deems necessary or advisable to protect and utilize to the best advantage the forest resources of Ontario," the amendment sets out.

The position of the Minister of Lands and Forests will be that of contact between the commission and

the Government. Eventually he will be a member of the commission, the personnel of which, with the sole exception of the Minister himself, will be chosen outside Government or civil service circles.

The wide powers given the commission are to enable major changes to be made in the system of forest direction and control which will ultimately eliminate the Department of Lands and Forests as such, and bring all phases of its activity directly under the authority of the commission.

Create Ontario Teachers' Federation, Objective of Bill Introduced by Premier

Establishment of an Ontario Teachers' Federation with a board of governors of not more than 40 members, which is empowered to set up a code of ethics for teachers and prescribe membership fees, is provided for in a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Premier George Drew as Minister of Education.

The federation's aim is "to promote and advance the cause of education and raise the status of the teaching profession." All teachers are to be members, but it is provided that those who are teachers when the new law comes into force may withdraw if they desire.

The act is in line with representations made by the present Ontario Teachers' Association, the Premier said.

The members of the first board of governors are: Roy F. Bennett, Brantford; Lawrence D. McCamus, London; Helen M. Sheppard, North Bay; Mary A. McDonald, Roger St. Denis, Adelard Gascon and Lawrence Kennedy Poupore of Ottawa; Winston Davies, St. Catharines; Harriett Emma Carr, Agnes Meek, John W. Cawood, Clare R. Fallis, Stanley Hunter Henry and Norman McLeod, all of Toronto, and Margaret Lynch and Edward Arnold Orr, Windsor.

48-HOUR WEEK IS STIPULATED IN DALEY BILL

A 48-hour week for employees in industry, one week's holidays with pay and a working day of no more than eight hours, are features of a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Labor Minister Charles Daley. It was given first reading.

The Industry and Labor Board may suspend these provisions in the case of a war industry, and in those cases where employers and employees agree in writing as to working hours and holidays, the board may validate such an agreement. In case of accident or work urgently required to be done to machinery or plant, the board is empowered to grant permission to exceed the 48-hour week and the eight-hour day.

The board is authorized under the bill to inspect and examine all books, payrolls and other records of any employer which in any way relate to the hours of labor of any employees. Both employers and employees are required to make full disclosure of all facts relating to hours of work.

A penalty of not less than \$25 and no more than \$500 is provided if an employer fails to comply with the regulations of the board or the provisions of the act. Every employer who permits an employee to exceed the limitations is rendered liable to a fine of not less than \$25 and not exceeding a total of \$4 in respect of each employee permitted to break the law.

The act comes into effect July 1, 1944.

A Labor Progressive amendment was ruled out of order as the new Labor Relations Bill passed through committee stage.

The amendment, introduced by J. B. Salsberg (L.P., Toronto-St. Andrew) urged retention of the present Collective Bargaining Act and a joint administration of both acts under the new Labor Board which replaces the Labor Court. To avoid confusion, Attorney-General Blackwell suggested the principle of the amendment might be considered without its lengthy terminology.

The House was assured that a Government amendment to the bill protects certifications of trade union and employees' organizations issued before or at the time the act comes into effect. These shall be deemed to be certified under the Wartime Labor Relations Regulations.