

April 6

HIGHER SALARY FOR TEACHERS COMMENDED

The increase in the minimum salary for teachers from \$800 to \$1,000 brought praise from a C.C.F. member in the Legislature last night during a committee consideration of the School Law Amendment Act. A. A. Casselman, Nipissin, praised the Government for taking this step, but pointed out that \$1,000 was hardly enough to maintain a proper standard of living in some municipalities.

An amendment to the Act permits a school board, with approval of the Education Minister and the local municipal council, to include in its estimates sums which would be deposited with the Ontario Treasurer to form a fund for future capital expenditures. In effect, this would make the Province banker for school boards which desire to be in a financial position to go ahead with erection of school buildings after the war.

Premier George Drew, in his capacity as Minister of Education, explained that this would make possible the construction and improvement of many schools when the war ended.

Glad to See Federation.

Mr. Casselman also congratulated the Government on the measure setting up the Ontario Teachers' Federation. He hoped that other Government Ministers would take a similar view of the relations which should exist between employer and employee. The member for Nipissing drew the attention of the Premier to the fact that the section dealing with the superannuation fund in the School Law Amendment Act might well be studied with a view to correcting a situation which had arisen in connection with teachers coming to Ontario from Britain.

"Many excellent teachers come to us from outside the Province, particularly from Britain," said Mr. Casselman. "They find that the superannuation benefits built up at home are lost when they come here. I think the Government would do well to consider doing something in this respect."

Premier Drew said he would be glad to take the matter under consideration.

The bill setting up the Teachers' Federation calls for the creation of a board of governors. The objects of the federation are to promote and advance the cause of education, promote and advance the interests of the teachers and to secure conditions which will make possible the best professional service, to arouse and increase public interest in educational affairs and to co-operate with other teachers' organizations throughout the world having the same objectives.

Code of Ethics.

The act provides that every teacher shall be a member of the federation, and any teacher wishing to withdraw from membership may do so by notifying the Minister of Education and the board of governors not later than six months after the act comes into force. The board of governors is empowered to prescribe a code of ethics for teachers, to create disciplinary regulations, etc.

Board of governors consist of 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, all 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 of Windsor.

"Forward-Looking."

The Teaching Profession Act, which passed second reading in the Ontario Legislature Tuesday night, was acclaimed yesterday by officials of Ontario teachers' organizations as a "sane forward-looking measure that will be mutually beneficial to teachers, educational authorities and ratepayers of this Province."

Executive of the Ontario Teachers' Council, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Association, and the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, agreed that the act would promote and advance education in Ontario, raise the status of teachers and attract the best men and women to the profession, arouse public interest in educational affairs, and "be the best friend a board of trustees could have."