

April 6

WILL PROTECT PROSPECTORS AGAINST FRAUD

Out of the 20 recommendations made to the Government in connection with prospecting, only three or four require legislation, Mines Minister Leslie M. Frost said in the Legislature yesterday.

"We hope to introduce a securities provision which we think will give effect to what everybody wants," said Mr. Frost. "That is, that prospectors and miners be not tied up with a whole lot of regulations which bar them from doing anything, but at the same time that they be given protection—to the prospectors and the public—against fraud."

Mr. Frost emphasized the hazardous and speculative nature of mining, and declared: "We cannot just aim to protect people who want to be foolish in their speculations by tying up a whole industry."

The report made by the commission inquiry involved not only taxation, but also the royalty tax and the amount which the municipalities received as their share of mining taxes, the Minister continued. Upon this question of mining taxation hinged a great deal on the future of Northern Ontario mining municipalities, he asserted. The Ontario Government had made its submission to the Dominion Government.

As far as the recommendations made by the commission regarding the Securities Act were concerned, the present act contained the necessary framework for adopting these recommendations if the Government saw fit, Mr. Frost explained.

Much of the recommendations made to the Government by the prospectors and developers and agencies, did not require legislation. The Minister said careful consideration would be given to the whole problem now that the press of Legislature business was about to be eased.

STUDY CHANGE IN SCHOOL TAX

Composition of a commission for the study of methods of adjustment of school taxation in Ontario will be announced as soon as possible after the completion of the Legislature's session, Premier Drew told the House last night.

Premier Drew said the present tax set-up for education in the Province is "complicated and almost without parallel." There are, he said, 6,144 administrative units in the Province. He pointed out also that of 7,489 elementary and secondary schools in Ontario in 1942, 5,277 were one-roomed schools in which were pupils from 6 to 16 years of age. "It is not humanly possible to assure equality of education when 6,000 out of 7,000 are one or two-roomed schools," said the Premier.

Speaking as Minister of Education, Mr. Drew paid a warm tribute to the work of Dr. Althouse, new Ontario education head.