

March 3

## Company Union Outlawing Asked

Outlawing of company unions and establishment of a permanent labor code for Ontario, was urged yesterday in a brief presented to the Ontario Government by the Ontario Federation of Labor (C.C.L.). Elroy Robson headed the deputation which met Premier George A. Drew and members of the Cabinet.

The suggested code would include provisions for compulsory maintenance of membership, union shop and check-off of dues. The brief advocated establishment of the rights of civic and Government employees to organize in trade unions.

Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act was sought to provide for recognition of hernia as an occupational disability and for handling separately under the act cases of tuberculosis and silicosis complicated with tuberculosis. Establishment was requested of a legislative committee to conduct an investigation into workmen's compensation in the Province, particularly the provision of 100 per cent compensation and full coverage of industrial diseases.

Regarding education, the brief asked establishment of a starting minimum wage of \$1,500 for school teachers, free education from primary school through university and establishment throughout the Province of evening classes for adults.

Other recommendations included establishment of a housing commission, extension of the Hydro-Electric system, setting up of a health and recreational program, extension of workers' vacations with pay from one to two weeks annually, and lowering of the minimum voting age from 21 to 18 years.

## House Is Asked to Lower Vote Age From 21 to 18

Lowering of the voting age from 21 years to 18 appears in prospect as the result of an amendment to section 17 of the Voters' List Act moved by A. A. MacLeod, M.P. (L.P., Bellwoods), in the Legislature yesterday. This amended section was held over for further discussion next week. The move to give the franchise to 18-year-olds found favor with the C.C.F. Opposition and with members of the Liberal group.

The question of lowering the voting age was studied by the select Legislature committee which brought in recommendations for revision of the various election statutes, and it was decided that this matter should be dealt with in the wider arena of the Legislature.

In moving the amendment in Committee of the Whole House, Mr. MacLeod said it "is highly undesirable to discriminate between the young soldier in uniform and the young civilian who might be manning the production lines. I do not know of anything that would give a keener sense of responsibility than to impose on these young people the obligation of expressing their opinion in the matter of electing Governments."

### Jolliffe Backs Move

E. B. Jolliffe, C.C.F. Leader, in supporting the amendment, pointed out that the age of 21 has a certain legal significance, perhaps a mystic one. It is equally true, he said, that there are serious legal obligations which arise before the age of 21. At 18 a person could be hanged or sent to penitentiary.

"A line has to be drawn some-

where," Mr. Jolliffe said. "In my opinion it is far more logical to draw it at a point where young men and women are old enough to marry, to get jobs, to work on farms, to engage in business, to serve in the war, and to incur all the penalties of the law should they offend the law.

"What impresses me most of all is that we cannot expect young people to assume the responsibilities of good citizenship unless they receive the franchise," said Mr. Jolliffe.

### Wants Report

Aurelien Belanger (Lib., Prescott), while not opposing the amendment, thought that, if the voting age is reduced to 18, the age of candidature should also be reduced from 21 to 18. He suggested that a committee be named to consider the whole question and report back to the Legislature this session.

J. B. Salsberg (L.P., St. Andrew), seconder of the amendment, stressed the "broad democratic character of the amendment." He alluded to the fact that the Soviet Union had recognized its obligation to the youth by granting them the franchise at the age of 18.

Farquhar Oliver (Lib., Grey South) was hopeful that, by reducing the voting age to 18, young people would act as a spur on older citizens, and bring to them a realization of the importance of the franchise.

"I am not speaking for this group in the House, but if this amendment comes to a vote I propose to support it," said Mr. Oliver.