

March 16

Jail Commitments In Ontario Show Increase Over 1943

An increase in the number of persons committed to jails and reformatories in Ontario during 1944, as compared with 1943, is disclosed in the annual report tabled in the Legislature yesterday by Provincial Secretary George Dunbar. Of the 25,975 persons committed for trial in 1944, 19,157 were sentenced to various terms. This is 2,000 less than the all-time high of 1939 when 27,926 persons were sentenced out of 34,914 committed. The increase in 1944 over 1943 was 608 in those sentenced, and 564 for those committed.

Crimes against public morals and decency went up from 413 in 1943 to 1,094 last year. Crimes against public order and peace decreased by 890. The total was 15,490. Biggest increase was in crimes against property, the figures being 1,773 in 1943 and 7,268 last year. The report pointed out that the number of commitments did not mean the same number of individuals, as one person might have appeared on a number of charges.

The average time spent in jail by the 25,975 individuals was 15.3 days. The report stressed that the shortage of suitable officers is handicapping law enforcement.

There were 90 strikes in Ontario during 1944, involving 31,497 workers, it was stated in the annual report of the Ontario Department of Labor tabled yesterday. There were 98 strikes in 1943. Forty of the 1944 strikes were settled in one day. Eighty-five per cent of the total time lost of 134,840 man-working days in 1944 was caused by the 35 strikes in the metal products manufacturing industry.

The report disclosed that there were 81 explosions during the year, resulting in nine fatalities and injuries to 103.

Increased Bounty For Wolves Asked

One wolf kills as much game as the average 20 hunters in Northern Ontario, E. L. Hughes, Trout Mills, president of the Northern Ontario Outfitters' Association, told the Legislature's game and fish committee yesterday. Mr. Hughes' statement came after Game and Fisheries Minister G. H. Dunbar had remarked: "The wolves are being killed all right; the department paid out \$50,000 in wolf bounties this year."

"It's true you are killing them," said Mr. Hughes. "But you should be taking 10 wolves for every one you are taking."

Shades of Robin Hood and William Tell stalked through the committee room when two of Canada's outstanding archers, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Mitchele, Toronto, appealed to the committee for an archery preserve in the township of Nipissing. In the reserve only archers would be permitted to hunt deer and moose. The couple demonstrated the power of a modern bow and arrows by puncturing tin cans before the committee.

Last year, Mr. Mitchele said, neither a deer nor moose was killed by bow and arrow. A special territory of their own, though, would give archers some protection inasmuch as they must dress in appropriate clothes for stalking and were therefore in danger from rifle hunters, he said.

Representing the Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers, Dr. Alan Second, Toronto, declared "unless there is a considerable increase in the number of pheasants released in Southern Ontario, we won't have this type of hunting long." He urged the department to increase its annual release of pheasants by at least 100,000.

40,000 New Homes Needed, Says MPP

F. W. Warren (C.C.F., Hamilton-Wentworth) told the House that 40,000 homes would have to be built during the next 10 years to meet the housing shortage, and he urged the Government to name a special Legislature committee on this problem.

"Forty thousand homes may not convey a great deal to the average person," said Mr. Warren, an architect by profession.

"Here is a comparison which will be illuminating. In 1929, our peak building year, there were 11,000 homes built in Ontario. We will have to build four times as many homes as we built in the peak year of 1929."

Mr. Warren deplored the attempts made in recent weeks to lower the standard of debate in the Legislature and voiced the hope that if House proceedings were broadcast over the radio, "the shadow boxers will be left at home."

Survey for Data On Cost of Living

Labor Minister Charles Daley disclosed in the Legislature last night that a survey had been undertaken in Ontario to compile data regarding the cost of living in various zones, the wage scales and other information.

"We have a tentative appointment to discuss this matter with Ottawa and there may be created a national plan regarding this matter," Mr. Daley said.