

March 6

# Labor Laws in Ontario Acceptable to Workers, Says Elliott in Speech

Legislative enactments by the Ontario Government on behalf of labor have given workers in this Province widespread benefits which are generally appreciated, especially under the Hours of Work and Vacations with Pay Act, Robert E. Elliott (P.C., Hamilton East) said yesterday in moving adoption of the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Elliott pointed out that it had been impossible during the war years to limit hours of work, but that labor had accepted the legislation providing for the 48-hour week and annual vacations as a guarantee of their peacetime status. Labor has been anxious for limitation of working hours for years.

"I believe that even the Socialists will agree that these things are essential," said Mr. Elliott.

## Hours "Reasonable"

"The Hours of Work and Vacations with Pay Act, introduced by this Government, has given the workers of the Province benefits they greatly appreciate," he said. "In the mind of the Government the 48-hour week is a reasonable number of hours if we wish to accomplish the things we have to do. Much argument is now made that it should be a lesser number of hours. One can visualize in the future a shorter work week. But for the present, considering the greater shortage of materials of all kinds required by the entire world, it is felt that the 48-hour week is satisfactory."

Under the act, he said, more than 50,000 workers in the building trades alone had received a week's holidays with pay who had never had holidays before under such provisions. The act, he said, would be extended so that the prorata system based on 2 per cent of the earnings of the individual would include all industries.

## Reviews ORLB Work

Mr. Elliott reviewed the work of the Ontario Regional War Labor Board, composed of equal representation of both labor and management, which, during the war, adjusted wages and helped to prevent inflation.

He lauded the announcement in the Speech from the Throne of a proposed minimum wage for men and a new schedule of rates under the Minimum Wage Act for women.

"Co-operation of the Department of Labor has been extended to many lines of endeavor," he said. He indicated that the sale of gasoline soon would be entirely controlled under the Industrial Standards Act, reducing hours of work and improving employment conditions.

"The working man is satisfied with the present labor laws," said Mr. Elliott. "True, we have a few Communists in some of our trade unions who at times like to cause trouble. But the majority of our workers are inclined to soon quiet them down."

fields than ever before, he said, with "tens of millions of dollars" available in the treasuries of many companies to develop new or previously located mineral deposits.

Indicating the expansion of agriculture in the North, Mr. Fullerton commented on the inauguration of an annual lamb sale at New Liskeard; veterinary services in the Kenora and Algoma districts and establishment of a school at Kapuskasing where 30 boys would be given a month's course. New freight assistance policies on livestock and the opening of a potato grading warehouse at Cochrane also were aiding northern farmers.

He said that plans were being made to establish a pool of farm machinery in northern districts that would be available at nominal rates to farmers who had had to rely on the manual method of clearing and breaking land.

Northern Ontario's present economic position, he said, was in sharp contrast to the gloomy forecasts of 30 years ago when it had been predicted that production in the North would be limited to Christmas trees and paperweights. Now the "wilderness" was developing into one of Canada's most valuable territories.

## Education Gets Boost

As a direct result of the increased school grants inaugurated by the Government last year, education in Northern Ontario has received a long-awaited impetus, and the entire Province has a far larger proportion of its schools staffed by fully qualified teachers than has any other Province in the Dominion, John A. Fullerton (P.C., Algoma-Manitoulin) said in his address seconding adoption of the address.

The Ontario Government's education grants to schools in Northern Ontario, he said, were three and a half times as high last year as ever before.

"This increase," he said, "afforded a welcome relief to those whose taxes on local real property had formerly borne the burden of school support. It also improved the quality of educational service."

Sure of substantial assistance from the Province through the increased schools grants, Mr. Fullerton said, local school boards had been able to offer teachers salaries commensurate with their responsibilities.

"This," he said, "has put a stop to the drift away from teaching which was apparent during the war years all over the continent."

Improvement in the type of teachers made possible through the increased grants, he said, was particularly appreciated by the North country because many of the northern districts had found it difficult to obtain qualified teachers.

## Swing to Larger Areas

"The new grants," said Mr. Fullerton, "have accelerated the swing toward township school areas. Larger areas had offered greater opportunities to the children, making possible health services and specialized instruction in such subjects as music, art, home economics and shop work. Another effect of the larger grants had been to increase the number of students taking secondary education and to encourage elementary school boards to combine to transport the children of their districts to high and vocational schools.

"Everywhere in the North," Mr. Fullerton said, "the secondary schools are crowded. Many of them are faced with the necessity of expanding. It all means that more children are getting more and better schooling."

As a northern member, Mr. Fullerton paid special attention in his speech to development of Northern Ontario. There was greater activity in the northern mining