

March 28

No Discrimination In Public Health Urged by Salsberg

The Provincial Government was urged today to take steps to ensure that "there is no discrimination against any race or color wishing to serve in the public health field," by J. B. Salsberg, Labor - Progressive (Toronto-St. Andrews), discussing health services in the Legislature.

Mr. Salsberg said he had received correspondence from a young Negro girl who tried to enter an Ontario nursing school. She was advised by a "Government department," he said, to go to the United States.

Billiard Room Ban On Minors Sought

First reading was given in the Ontario Legislature yesterday to a bill providing that no person under 18 years of age may "frequent" a billiard parlor unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Introduced by Attorney-General Blackwell, the bill is in the form of an amendment to the Minors' Protection Act, which specified that minors must have the written consent of a parent or guardian before frequenting such premises.

Several weeks ago Sarnia Council forwarded a resolution to the Provincial Government and to each Ontario city asking that minors be excluded from billiard parlors.

County, Municipal Roads to Get \$19 Million Aid

Since 1930, the Ontario Department of Highways has grown from an administration handling 3,700 miles of highways to a huge organization responsible for 7,600 miles of King's highways (main arterial routes), 3,000 miles of "secondary" roads and 6,000 miles of development roads, Highways Minister George Doucett yesterday told the Legislature.

Outlining some of the operations of his department, during consideration by committee of the House of the \$46 million-odd expenditures planned on highways, Dr. Doucett said that, in highways, "yesterday's luxury had become today's necessity." He said that, in 1930, the department had spent \$400,000 on keeping roads open during the winter; last year, this cost had risen to \$2,300,000, mostly because of the need of maintaining vast quantities of equipment for snow removal and combatting ice formations.

Claims Criticism Flat

Criticism by the Opposition of the amount to be voted highways this year, he said, fell flat when the investment in highway transportation, both on roads and motor vehicles used on those roads, was considered. Ontario had \$670 millions invested in roads, he said, and the public had invested more than a billion in trucks, busses and passenger motor cars. Considered as an agency with such capital invested, and as a provider of 60 million man-hours of work this year, the amount estimated for expenditure was "almost small," he said.

In addition to his own department's work, he pointed out, \$19 million of the total to be voted went in contributions to county and municipal road construction and maintenance. The Province contributed 50 per cent to county roads and 75 per cent to bridges; to municipalities, it contributed on a sliding scale bases. And in northern areas it paid 80 per cent or all of road costs.

Considerable work, Mr. Doucett said, would be done this year in northern areas to aid in opening mining and settlement areas.

Health Minister Russell T. Kelley earned the approving nod of many members when his introductory remarks on the health plans for 1946-47 were short, snappy and complete. It was his intention, he said, to seek to transform the services of the department more into an agency for disease prevention than an organization combatting illnesses. This accounted mostly for \$3 millions of increases in health costs for the year, covering such things as more expanded anti-tuberculosis work, examinations of all expectant mothers and similar efforts.

The House spent a busy day, in addition to approving estimates for highways, health, Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Auditor and legislative offices. Fifty-one bills were given royal assent when Lieutenant-Governor Albert Matthews visited the Chamber and signified his formal approval of the legislation passed during the current session.