

LIBERAL LEADER SUBMITS BILL

Suggests Reform in Power Legislation.

THE COST OF LIVING.

Discussion in the Legislature Over Salaries

Busy Day Disposing of Members' Bills

—Legislation Promised to Deal
With Reckless Auto Driving—The
Remuneration of County Council-
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tario.

Hon. A. G. MacKay, the Liberal leader, proposes changes in the power legislation under which parties who believe they have suffered damage from the construction or future operation of the Hydro-electric system may have free access to the courts.

At yesterday's sitting of the Legislature he submitted his bill to amend the Power Commission act and the Power Commission amendment act of 1909. The measure repeals the clauses which require the securing of a fiat from the Attorney-General before action can be entered against the commission, and proposes the addition of the following section to the Power Commission amendment act:—

Liberal Leader's Bill.

"Whenever the commission desires to exercise the powers mentioned in the preceding section (those of securing land easements, etc.) the commission in respect thereof shall have the power and shall proceed in the manner provided by the public works act, where the Minister of Public Works takes land or property for the use of the Province, and the provisions of the said act shall, mutatis mutandis, apply.

"Wherever the commission shall construct, erect, maintain or operate transmission lines through, over, under, along or across any land or premises without acquiring a right of way in fee simple of at least sixty feet in width the commission shall be responsible, whether guilty of negligence or not, for all damage caused to the crops, orchards, vineyards, lands, fences, plantations, buildings, contents of buildings, farm implements, live stock or other property of any kind or nature whatsoever, or to the persons or owners or occupiers or other persons who may be lawfully upon any such land or premises and may be sued for the recovery of the amount of such damages in any court of competent jurisdiction without obtaining the consent of the Attorney-General of Ontario.

"It shall be the duty of the commission forthwith to pay the amount of any final judgments obtained against it, and to collect the same from all the municipalities interested in the same proportion and in the same manner as the costs of operating, maintaining, repairing, renewing and insuring the works are now by law collectable."

Private Members' Day.

It was private members' day and the House spent a busy hour considering

second readings of several measures for which individual representatives were responsible. A bill to amend the Municipal Act by fixing the proportion of township tax rates to be set aside for police villages, championed by Mr. Macdarmid (West Elgin) was sent to the Municipal Committee. Another amendment by the same member to widen the scope of municipal jurisdiction in the Railway and Municipal Board was, however, withdrawn after Hon. Mr. Lucas and Hon. Mr. MacKay had counselled further consideration before action was taken.

Rights of Municipalities.

The proposal of Mr. A. E. Fripp (West Ottawa) to give the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council power to amend proclamations regarding municipal disputes was regarded by Hon. Mr. Lucas as objectionable. The additional clause providing that municipalities might at their pleasure return to the original system of electing aldermen was favorably received and the bill went to committee. Two other municipal proposals by Mr. Fripp were approved, viz., to permit municipalities to spend \$5,000 instead of \$2,000 in a scavenging system, and to give them the right to prohibit or regulate the sale of ice cream on their streets.

Mr. Macdarmid's bill designed to protect municipalities in cases where petitions were presented, after careless preparation, by stipulating that all signatures accompanied by affidavits as to their genuine character, was withdrawn. Hon. Mr. Hanna said the question of validity of signatures was a serious one and the bill provided the material by which clerks could check up the signatures.

Work on the Roads.

Mr. A. A. Mahaffy (Muskoka) presented a bill providing that in unorganized districts all males between the ages of 21 and 60 years should be liable to 21 days' statute labor. It also provided for the collection of unpaid taxes as in organized townships. The bill went to committee.

Municipalities were given power to regulate bowling alleys on the same basis as pool rooms by a bill supported by Mr. A. B. Thompson (Simcoe) which met with approval.

Mr. W. F. Nickle (Kingston) also secured the adoption of his bill to permit members of School Boards to become candidates for other offices; and Mr. J. Torrance (Perth) was similarly successful with his measure to consolidate boards of public utilities and water commissioners.

Salaries of Councillors.

A bill permitting members of County Councils the right to fix the rate of their own remuneration was submitted by Mr. Wm. Proudfoot (Centre Huron). Hon. Mr. Lucas submitted that some limit and uniform rate of pay should exist in the Province. The present amount was \$3 per day, and he believed that Councillors were generally satisfied. If the rate were left open it would lead to dissatisfaction. The maximum fee was usually taken by the Councillors, and he regarded it as a bit startling for members to assume the power to determine the remuneration.

Mr. Valentine Stock (Perth), and Dr. Jessop (Lincoln) both supported the bill. The Councillors, they maintained, could be trusted to adjust the matter equitably. Dr. Jessop thought \$5 per day was a reasonable fee. Mr. Proudfoot argued that Councillors

should have the same rights in this matter as members of the Legislature.

May Get An Increase.

Sir James Whitney declared that this was impossible. Under the constitution, the Legislature was given control of County Councils. It would be dangerous, in his opinion, to change the uniformity existing in this matter. He had no objection to a fixed fee, but he was opposed to any checker-board legislation. He suggested the withdrawal of the present bill, and the introduction of another making provision for an increased fee.

Hon. Mr. MacKay reminded the Premier that under the present system they were not free from a checker-board system, as Councils could pay themselves one, two or three dollars per day. The bill was sent to committee with a view to fixing a higher maximum if deemed advisable.

Mr. W. H. Hoyle (North Ontario), in moving the second reading of his bill to amend the fish and game act, declared that trappers in November

frequently set traps for mink and found muskrats in the traps. He made no accusations, but high inducements were held out for the skins by furriers, and he deemed some legal protection necessary. Hon. Dr. Reaume approved, and the bill went to committee.

The Cost of Living.

Passing from private and public bills, the House went immediately into supply on the year's supplementary estimates. At the outset the Premier referred to the number of salary increases proposed. They were the result of the generally increased cost of living. "It is beyond my comprehension," observed Sir James, "how men with families can live on salaries ranging from \$700 to \$1,500 a year." The Government would like to have been more generous in this matter. Some years ago it was the rule that men and women in the Government employ received better pay than the ordinary outsider. The reverse was now the case, and Provincial employees in many cases received less than they would make in commercial life.

The Point to Deal With.

Hon. Mr. MacKay concurred. "The whole point is," commented the Liberal leader, "are the increases made upon merit or at haphazard?"

"On merit," quoth Hon. Mr. Cochrane.

"It seems to me," was Mr. Studholme's comment, "that most of the increases go to the high salaried men. How about the man with a small salary? Are you giving him a fair show?" He hoped the Ministers would consider each individual case.

Hon. Mr. Matheson was glad to inform the Labor man that the Government had followed that rule. The low-salaried men had been recognized. The Government found that many of the officials were getting into debt and could not possibly live on the salaries they were getting.

After Reckless Motor Men.

The vote of \$3,500 for the administration of the automobile law prompted Mr. McDougall to urge an amendment providing for an enforced penalty. Something should be done to deal effectively with reckless chauffeurs. He suggested the loss of license on the second offence.

"For the information of hon. gentlemen" announced Sir James, "I may say that the time is not far-distant when the Government will take drastic steps to stop the careless driving of automobiles. These chauffeurs must be taught that they cannot, with impunity, drive with utter recklessness over streets and highways in this Province. The rights of the people must and shall be protected, and this reckless conduct shall cease."

Pasteur Treatment for Ontario.

As previously intimated in The Globe, the Government proposes to apply the \$1,000 voted for the purchase of serum to the treatment of people who have suffered contagion from rabies. Hon. Mr. Hanna said he had been in correspondence with the head of the Pasteur Institute in New York and was assured that the treatment could be secured in Toronto for approximately \$20 per patient.

Mr. Studholme directed attention to a recent fire in Hamilton. There were, he said, many inflammable materials kept in the building, and he thought factory inspectors should be given authority to deal with such conditions and the necessity for providing effective means of escape. Hon. Mr. Duff said he would be glad to discuss the matter with the member.

May Make More Judges.

In response to a question by Mr. McDougall, the Attorney-General stated that the Government had received a request from the Judges for an increase to their number. The matter was being considered and an announcement would shortly be made. Mr. McDougall also suggested that the Provincial Superintendent of Police should co-operate with the Dominion Superintendent of Police, a suggestion in which the Minister concurred. Hon. Mr. Foy detailed the working of the new system of Provincial Police, which was proving very satisfactory.

Before adjournment the Premier submitted a resolution that after Monday next Government orders should be given precedence at Monday sittings of the House. Sir James is anxious to "get down to busi-