

KINGSTON MAN OPPOSED "GRAB"

Mr. Nickle Placed His Convictions Before House.

MR. M'EWING SPOKE OUT.

Mr. Clarke Made Frank Appeal to Premier.

Said Liberals Would Not Take Advantage of His Action in the Country—Mr. Proudfoot's Bill to Abolish Three-fifths Clause Defeated—Changes in License Act—One Big License Commission Under Consideration.

The temper of the members of the Legislature towards the proposed "salary grab" in the dying hours of the present session was presented to the House with remarkable frankness before adjournment yesterday.

A torrent of desk-pounding greeted the statement of Mr. J. P. Downey that he was heartily in favor of the proposal. The tumult grew into a roar of approval from both sides of the House when Mr. Sam Clarke undertook to assure the Premier that if the Government succumbed to the proposition the Liberal party would not take advantage of it in the country. But a surly chorus of "No, no," and an ominous silence, broken only by the mild approval of Mr. Valentine Stock and Mr. Allan Studholme, greeted the quietly-spoken, earnest words of Mr. W. F. Nickle.

People Should Speak First.

"When I assumed the honor of representing Kingston in the Legislature I knew what the honorarium would be," said he. "Having undertaken the duties upon that understanding, I take it that I have no right to take more until my constituents publicly authorize me to increase the sum. If such a proposal is to be made, in my judgment it should be submitted to the Legislature prior to an election, when the people whom we represent and whose property we administer would have opportunity to pass upon it."

Chorus of members—No, no!
"Hon. members may differ from me," rejoined the member for Kingston, "but, in my view, so long as representative government stands for what it should stand for, we have no right to do this thing. It is beneath the dignity of the Legislature to stoop to a salary grab in the dying hours of a session. Only by remembering our responsibilities and our obligations can we hope to keep public life on the higher plane."

Not a Question of Worth Now.

"It is not at this time a question of what we are worth," continued Mr. Nickle. "Some of us are not worth \$1,000; others of you are doubtless worth more. It is a matter of keeping faith and dealing fairly and honestly with those who chose us to represent them here."

Mr. Nickle sat down amid silence. The discussion was precipitated by Colonel Hugh Clark. He directed attention to the reports in circulation, which quoted him as having refused to sign the mysterious "round robin." He wanted to assure the House that he had never been asked to sign.

Mr. J. P. Downey followed, but went farther. He was, he stated

amid applause, in favor of the increase. He believed the present indemnity to be inadequate in view of all the calls upon a member of the House. He desired to be frank in the statement of his views.

Missed the "Round Robin."

Then came Mr. P. H. Bowyer. He had been out of town and had not heard of the "round robin," neither had he been asked to sign the mysterious document.

Mr. J. McEwing followed with a brief statement that he was not in favor of making the increase at the present time. He had intimated his view outspokenly to the members when the matter was suggested.

Mr. Sam Clarke made a direct appeal to the Premier, and spoke amid repeated punctuation of applause. He expressed the view that if the members were not worth \$1,500 they were not fit to be in the House. "It is up to the Premier," he said. "He should be the judge. Surely he is big enough and brave enough to give it off his own bat. He is the man to bring it in. Either cut out the salary or let it be as big as the men. The Premier surely knows those of us on this side of the House well enough to know that we would not take advantage of it in the country if the Government raised the salaries."

Conservative Approval.

The Conservative desks rattled in approval of the last statement.

All eyes were directed towards Mr. Nickle, the remaining member whose name had been quoted in the reports. For a moment the Kingston man hesitated, and then rose. While he knew nothing of the publication of the report in question, he said, it was true that he was unalterably opposed to the proposed indemnity increase at the present time. His statement was greeted with a chorus of protest.

Throughout the discussion both leaders sat silent. The Premier busied himself gathering his papers together preparatory to adjournment. The Liberal leader rested his head on his hands and studied a refractory statute.

There was a tense moment when the speaking ceased, and unmistakable disappointment when the Premier, whose rising focussed immediate attention, briefly moved the adjournment of the House.

For Purer Milk.

As previously intimated by The Globe, the amendment to the municipal amendment act, submitted by Hon. Mr. Duff, under which the sources of milk supply will be inspected under municipal control and milk vendors will be licensed, will be the only Legislative result from the report of the Milk Commission this session. The Minister made the announcement in moving the second reading of his bill. The commission, he said, had gone about its work well and done valuable

had shown that the milk supply was far from what it ought to be. Toronto, he regretted to say, was the worst in the Province, and he congratulated Ottawa and London on the showing made. It was also shown that the quality could be generally improved, and, if proper precautions were taken, it would be easy to place the whole supply on a satisfactory plane at a small cost.

Act Not Comprehensive Enough.

Mr. D. J. McDougall feared the measure was not comprehensive enough. He favored Provincial rather than municipal control. He was not surprised to find Ottawa in the lead. It was not the only regard in which the Dominion capital was ahead of Toronto and all the other cities.

Sir James Whitney had found the report interesting, instructive and valuable. According to its purport the farmers of the Province had nothing to be ashamed of.

Hon. A. G. MacKay had doubts of the effective character of the proposed measure. "When it is made as effective as it ought to be," said the Liberal leader, "good results will follow."

Mr. Daniel Reed saw a dangerous element in allowing one municipality to dictate to another. Under the bill an inefficient city inspector might do serious injustice to the dairymen, he submitted.

The bill was sent on to committee.

The House in Committee.

A good part of the time of the House during the afternoon was taken up in

Committee of the Whole. The act respecting County and District Courts, which has been on the order paper for weeks, was sent on to its last stage with a slight amendment suggested by Mr. W. H. Hearst, Sault Ste. Marie. Mr. D. J. McDougall urged the Government to amend the bill in order to prevent clashing between the sittings of High Courts and County Courts. There was, he said, a real grievance in the Province about both courts sitting at the same time. His suggestion, however, was not acted upon.

Shuniah Gets Another Bill.

It would not seem natural if the township of Shuniah was not represented in some small way in the mass of legislation that goes through the House every session. Yesterday an unimportant bill of the township was passed through committee without comment so far as its clauses were concerned, but the Premier could not resist the temptation to make a joke at the expense of the little municipality.

The Premier's Little Joke.

"There has been more legislation for Shuniah than for all the rest of the counties of the Province," commented the Premier, jocularly. "What a task it would be for a man to start at the beginning and trace the record of the wonderful creations of the Legislature of Ontario with regard to the township of Shuniah," and the only member who did not enjoy the joke was the member for Port Arthur, who introduced the bill.

Four Bills Withdrawn.

Mr. Mahaffy's bill to amend the act respecting statute labor received the axe in the hands of Hon. Mr. Hanna. The act, said the Provincial Secretary, gave unorganized municipalities advantages which incorporated municipalities now have, without making them take on the added responsibilities. Mr. Mahaffy took the broad hint and withdrew the bill. Then in quick succession Mr. Lennox withdrew two bills and Dr. Jessop (Lincoln) another. Both members had apparently received their instructions before the House met.

Toronto Bill's Second Reading.

The city of Toronto's bill was given its second reading without comment. The bill in all its various sections will, it is understood, come in for thorough discussion when it comes before the Committee of the Whole to-day.

The Premier moved the second reading of the bill respecting the Government House property. The bill, said Sir James, merely made it possible for the Government to deal with the property. They had already provided a lump sum this session toward the new Government House, and next session it would be necessary to submit to the House a well-considered scheme.

To Amend Companies Act.

The Provincial Secretary explained the Government bill to amend the companies act. The measure, he said, gave the Provincial Secretary power to issue ordinary charters without having to secure the signature of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Great Seal of the Province. This was in line with the practice in several other Provinces, at Ottawa, and in England. The bill also gave power to the Provincial Secretary to allow of shares in pounds and francs.

The Three-fifths Clause Again.

The House divided again upon the renewed proposition of Mr. Proudfoot to abolish the three-fifths local option clause. The division was precipitated at the second reading of the Huron member's measure, which provided a majority vote both for the enactment and repeal of local option. In support of the enactment Mr. Proudfoot argued that the majority should govern. It was the desire of all who had the interests of the Province at heart to encourage local option. It lessened the consumption of intoxicating liquor. By reducing the number of places where liquor was sold less opportunity was given for drinking.

"My sole object in presenting this bill," said Mr. Proudfoot, after quoting figures to show the result of the existing clause in defeating the will of the people in many municipalities, "is to do my part in lessening the