

House but twice, and on each occasion he had talked considerably.

He maintained that there should be regulations with regard to the non-attendance of members, with which Hon. A. G. MacKay warmly agreed.

The Prime Minister in replying took a thrust at the men who had opposed the increase, remarking that they felt safe in doing so. He provoked a retort from the Labor member by declaring that there was not a member in the House who did not think he had a right to the increase. Sir James also stated that he would shortly introduce regulations on the line of those in force in the Federal House, setting forth the number of days which a member could be absent without losing part of his indemnity.

Churches Retain Exemptions.

Mr. C. R. McKeown's bill to take tax exemptions away from churches, public schools and all similar institutions received short shrift at the hands of Hon. W. J. Hanna, and was withdrawn. A number of bills of more or less importance were given second readings, including Mr. Phil Bowyer's bill to make the holidays in rural schools the same length of time as in the cities. The bill was sent on after numerous members expressed themselves in favor.

Mr. McNaught Objects.

In discussing the bill of Hon. James Duff respecting the Board of Stationary Engineers, a little breeze arose when Mr. W. K. McNaught, North Toronto, objected to the requirement of three years' residence in Canada before a man should be eligible for examination, unless he is a British subject. Sir James Whitney did not see the need of the change, and said there was too much attention paid to outsiders. Mr. McNaught thought one year was quite long enough. Hon. Mr. Duff had no objection to the amendment, and Sir James finally withdrew his opposition.

Mr. Allan Studholme raised strong objection to the clause providing for fining a man who temporarily operates an engine in the absence of the qualified engineer. He pointed out the need for an engineer having sleep, and where a plant, such as a paper mill, is run twenty-four hours in the day, some one else must run the engine, and he urged that the fireman or other man during the regular engineer's absence should be a certificated man.

Hard on the Fireman.

Hon. A. G. MacKay pointed out that a fireman is allowed by the act to operate an engine under the direction of a qualified engineer, whereas if he runs the engine while the engineer is away for an hour at dinner he is liable to a fine. It was left in doubt, he said, whether under such circumstances a man was still to be regarded as acting under the supervision of the engineer or would be liable to a fine.

Mr. Sam Clarke, West Northumberland, supported Mr. Studholme's contention also, but the bill was carried through the committee stage without amendment.

More Holidays in Country.

Mr. P. H. Bowyer, East Kent, made a strong plea for his bill to amend the public schools act by making the rural school holidays last to the end of August, the same as for schools in villages, towns and cities. The teachers and the scholars would, he urged, be much benefited.

Hon. Dr. Pyne asked for a free expression of the House, especially from the rural members.

Mr. J. McEwing, West Wellington, thought the proposal was in the interests of the teachers rather than of the pupils, and opposed the extension of the holidays. Messrs. E. Jessop, Lincoln; J. A. Ross, Monck; A. Ferguson, South Simcoe, and J. W. Pearce, North Hastings, spoke in favor of the bill.

Hon. Mr. MacKay would favor the bill if the attendance during the latter half of August was so slim as to involve a waste of time, but would be opposed to it if the attendance was good. Mr. A. W. Nixon, Halton, and Mr. J. W. Johnson, West Hastings, looking to the interests of the children, favored the lengthening of the vacation, and Mr. Sam Clarke, West Northumberland, also supported the bill.

Hon. Dr. Pyne said that if he were

a judge on the speakers, he might say the yeas had it. There was a small attendance in rural schools in the latter part of August, but in view of the discussion he thought it well that the bill should go to committee.

Fines to Go to Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Hanna explained Mr. McElroy's amendment to the motor-vehicle act. The bill, said the Minister, provided that where fines were secured under the act by constables the fees should be turned in to the Treasurer of the municipality or county in which the prosecution took place. The bill was given its second reading.

Another bill sent on to the committee was Mr. W. F. Nickle's amendment to the municipal act, providing that no exemption from taxation be granted to property held by churches or charitable institutions which is occupied by tenants or otherwise returning a revenue.

Mr. A. Ferguson of South Simcoe moved the second reading of his bill respecting the use of traction engines. The bill proposed to stop heavy traction engines from using the road at certain periods of the year when the roads are not in good condition. Messrs. J. McEwing of West Wellington and D. Reed of South Wentworth agreed that roads were seriously damaged during certain seasons, but opposed any such an arbitrary prohibition of the use of traction engines. Hon. Mr. Hanna was also of this opinion, and upon the Minister's suggestion Mr. Ferguson withdrew his bill.

Churches Should Pay Taxes.

After a valiant defence of his bill to abolish tax exemptions on churches and educational institutions, Mr. C. R. McKeown (Dufferin) bowed to the party discipline, and in obedience to the hint of the Provincial Secretary withdrew the bill.

He urged the principle of rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and advocated that churches should go in an independent way and pay their taxes, and enjoy what that taxation could bring them. He cited the resolution passed with only one dissenting voice by the Baptist Convention endorsing tax-paying by churches. The Christian Church, he said, weakened its appeal to those who were not in sympathy with it by asking others to pay its taxes. Quoting the words of another man, he asked, "Why should Havergal Hall and Loretto Abbey and St. Andrew's College not be taxed, when the roof that covers the head of the widow and the orphan is taxed to the last shingle?" And why should the Conservatory of Music, paying a seven per cent. dividend to its shareholders, escape taxation by becoming affiliated with the University of Toronto?

No Hope for Bill.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said that while personally he might make a very good Baptist on this bill, there was no possibility of the bill passing the committee, so he would ask the hon. member to withdraw it. There had been a practically unanimous expression of opinion on the subject only a few short months ago.

Mr. Studholme said he used to think it was timidity or lack of backbone that made a member withdraw a bill, but he had learned that it was party discipline; he must bow to the Whip. He was surprised that this bill should be withdrawn, considering the opinions privately expressed to him in the hall by quite a number of members, and the fact that the Provincial Secretary himself was personally in favor of it.

Mr. McKeown said he was a good soldier and would submit to orders. He had not really expected the bill to pass, but thought its discussion had had a good educative effect.

To Protect Insurers.

Col. Hugh Clark has given notice of a bill to amend the Ontario insurance act. The bill is designed to give increased protection to insurers against companies that are practically insolvent and against tricky adjustment of fire claims, and at the same time provide safeguards for the companies against fraudulent claims. The bill aims to provide a standard form of fire policy and hold inspectors responsible for the administration of the act and the solvency of companies doing business in Ontario.