

MEMBERS HAD TO WITHDRAW BILLS

The "Down-and-out" Procession Started.

ELLIS BILL IS DROPPED.

Hon. A. G. MacKay Objects to Law With Regard to Accidents on Highways Being Modified to Protect Municipalities—Bills Go to Committee.

Two members of the Legislature received lessons yesterday in the art of gracefully withdrawing bills. Both were new additions to the House—Mr. E. A. Peck of West Peterborough and Mr. J. A. Ellis of West Ottawa—and neither attempted to question the discouraging decision of the Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Peck's bill provided for specially assessing land abutting on streets for the purpose of meeting the cost of street watering, cleaning, etc. Hon. Mr. Hanna remarked that the matter had been considered last session, when the local improvements section of the municipal act was gone over, and that it was useless to go over the same ground again. Mr. W. S. Brewster of South Brant rose to announce that he had a similar bill for the city of Brantford, but he was assured, amid laughter, that his bill would not be prejudiced. Then Mr. Peck did what was expected of him.

The West Ottawa member's bill to protect municipalities from actions arising out of accidents on the streets, except where notice of the dangerous condition had been given, came to a sudden end.

Wrong in Principle.

"The principle of this thing is absolutely wrong," declared Hon. A. G. MacKay as Mr. Ellis sat down. "The King's highway is for all men. I may be travelling one hundred miles from home over a road that I never travelled before. The residents in that district may know all about a dangerous spot and never take the trouble to give notice of it. Because they never do so I may be injured and I have no redress. It is the business of the municipality to see that the roads are kept in repair. The law should not be relaxed. We are looking toward better and not worse highways."

And the applause that came from both sides forewarned Mr. Ellis of what was coming.

"I have been an admirer of this bill," said Hon. Mr. Hanna with a smile, "and I have supported it again and again, only to find myself in a hopeless and helpless minority. I would say to the supporter of the bill that things don't look good at the present moment. I think it would serve no purpose to have the bill go further."

The bill was withdrawn.

Two Bills Get Through.

Mr. R. H. McElroy of Carleton moved the second reading of two bills to make clear the right of counties to issue debentures without the assent of the electors. One is to amend the municipal act, and the other to amend the highways improvement act. Mr. McElroy desires to give county Councils the right to borrow sums not exceeding \$20,000 for road improvement over and above the amount required for ordinary

purposes. Both were sent on to committee.

The member for West Ottawa secured the second reading of two bills endorsed by the Association of Municipalities: one to provide that the sinking fund for debentures for park purposes be collected during the latter period of the debentures, and another to allow municipalities to tear down dangerous buildings. The Provincial Secretary questioned the principle of shifting the burden to posterity, but allowed the bill to go to committee.

A York County Bill.

Mr. Alex. McCowan's bill to allow townships to lay sidewalks, etc., and to permit the Clerk of the county, whose office is in another municipality to mail notices, etc., from that point, was given a second reading. The East York member explained that this clause was to cover a condition in York county where the offices were in Toronto, and it was necessary to go outside to mail county notices. The Minister suggested that the matter could be covered by a private bill.

The House took up a number of private bills and passed them through committee without discussion.

Mr. A. M. Rankin, member for Frontenac, moved the first reading of his bill to prohibit the use of narrow-tire waggons. This bill has been endorsed by the Good Roads Association.