

ASKED RELIEF FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Rowell Sought an Amend- ment to Highways Act

PLAN FOR FAIR TREATMENT

Amendment Proposed to Compulsory Vaccination Act—Dr. McQueen Aimed to Make Vaccination Op- tional.

In order to hasten the conclusion of the session the Legislature spent the whole of yesterday from 11.30 in the morning until late last night in an endeavor to finish up all of the Government business. A large number of bills were dealt with, many amendments were moved to bills called for their third readings, and those amendments which were moved by members of the Opposition were promptly squelched by the House. There were two divisions during the afternoon: on an amendment by Mr. Rowell to the highways improvement bill, and on an amendment by Dr. McQueen to the vaccination bill. The Government majorities were 58 and 48, respectively.

To Relieve Municipalities.

On the third reading of the bill for the improvement of the highways Mr. Rowell moved an amendment which provided that contributions to highway improvement under the act shall continue as at present, so far as the Province is concerned—namely, one-third; but instead of the municipalities contributing two-thirds, one-third should be contributed out of the moneys received from the Dominion Government and one-third by the local municipalities. That would involve no greater tax upon the Province, but it would relieve the municipalities of one-half the burden they are now under, and would act as a strong inducement to have other municipalities come in under the highway improvement scheme.

Mr. Rowell was glad to see that the Government had so far adopted the principle of the good roads resolution presented earlier in the session, that the moneys received from the Dominion Government should be used by the Department of Public Works as part of the general fund for highway development. He did not agree that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council should have authority to vary the proportion to be contributed by the municipality, the Province and the Dominion, as it would be possible to treat the municipalities differently.

It might not be the intention of the Government to do so, but the act should be clear on that point. The clause should make perfectly clear the amounts to be contributed by each of the three parties, and if that could not be done the act at least should state that all municipalities should be treated on the same basis.

Treat All Alike.

Dr. Reaume assured the House that the Government was disposed to treat all municipalities alike. As the Federal grant would not be available this year, the proportion of contributions will not be affected. Meanwhile, if it was found necessary to specify the amount, the act could be amended at a subsequent session.

The amendment was lost on a vote of 75 to 17. A further amendment

by Mr. Elliott to make one clause read that all municipalities should receive the same proportion of payment was lost on the same division, and the bill was given a third reading.

Government Not Unanimous.

That there was opposition among the members of the Government to Hon. Mr. Hanna's bill to provide for compulsory vaccination was evident from the large number of absentees from the Government benches when the vote was taken on Dr. McQueen's amendment. Mr. J. A. Ellis (West Ottawa) spoke in the House against the bill, saying that the City Council of Ottawa had passed a resolution opposing it. Neither Mr. Ellis nor Mr. Napoleon Champagne (East Ottawa) was in the House when the vote was taken.

Following are the others who did not vote:—Messrs. Gooderham, Dunlop, Godfrey, G. H. Ferguson, Milligan, Hogarth, Peck, McElroy, Machin, Carscallen, Nixon, MacKay, Proudfoot, W. R. Ferguson, McDonald and Lutherland.

The vote was 66 to 18 against the amendment, a majority of only forty-eight for the Government. The Government majority on the highways improvement bill was fifty-eight. The original motion passed its third reading on the same division.

Measure Too Drastic.

When the third reading of the bill was called, Dr. McQueen (North Ventworth) moved an amendment making it optional instead of compulsory for the municipal boards to order general vaccination where there is an outbreak of smallpox. He urged that there might be only one case in a municipality, from which there might be no danger whatever. According to Mr. Hanna's bill, every person in the municipality would have to be vaccinated on account of the one case. He would also place the final authority in the hands of the Provincial Board of Health, and provide that an order for general vaccination on the part of a municipal board must receive the endorsement of the Provincial Board.

Mr. Hanna admitted that in a case where there were only one or two cases of smallpox this bill might seem arbitrary, but the bill was sharpened in such a way that the municipal bodies would exercise their powers as reasonable men, and act on the advice of the medical men who might be on them.

Mr. J. A. Ellis (West Ottawa) pointed out that a majority of the people of Ottawa were opposed to his measure, and that the Ottawa Council had passed a resolution expressing disapproval of it.

Prevent Spread of Weeds.

Mr. J. G. Anderson (South Bruce) moved an amendment to Hon. Mr. Duff's bill to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, to provide for the appointment of Provincial inspectors to see that the provisions of the law are carried out. The law in this regard, and Mr. Anderson, was not being carried out, and Provincial inspectors would correct this.

Hon. Mr. Duff pointed out that this would mean the appointment of a Provincial inspector in every township. As proposed in the bill, any fifty farmers can get together and have a municipal inspector appointed for the purpose. He urged that there had been in recent years a great improvement in the care taken by farmers to prevent the spreading of weeds.

Concerning Exemptions.

Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) objected to a bill to incorporate the Y. M. C. A. of Fort William.