

LIBERALS WILL FIGHT FOR FACTORIES ACT

**Ready to Stay Until Christmas to Get Better Conditions
for Workers, Says the Opposition
Leader**

When the bill to revise the shops and factories act was in committee in the Legislature last evening the members of the Opposition returned to attack the provisions of the present act, and urged upon the Government the need for more advanced legislation. Several divisions were forced, but the amendments were voted down.

The Opposition were not satisfied to have these questions disposed of summarily. If the Government would consider the proposals the Opposition would not press the amendments for the time being. "We are prepared to stay here until Christmas if necessary to get a decent factory act for the workers of this Province," said the Liberal leader. "The day is coming when a man must earn a wage that will support his family and insure his children an opportunity to secure an education that will fit them for their work in life." Certain it was that the Government had neglected its duty to provide better legislation in this direction. Six years ago a special committee of the House was appointed to look into the question and no action had been taken to carry out their recommendations. Mr. Allan Studholme voted all through with the Opposition.

Amendment Proposed.

Mr. Rowell moved, seconded by Dr. McQueen, that the factories act should be amended by adding to section 55 a sub-section providing that no person, firm or corporation shall offer or expose for sale any machine to be operated by steam, hydraulic, electric or other power unless it is provided with reasonable safety devices and guards for the protection of workmen employed in the neighborhood of the place where the machine in question is operated, for the prevention of persons operating or allowing the machine to be operated while the safety devices are detached, for the marking upon the machine of the manufacturer's name and address, and for the imposition of a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$200 for each offence. The amendment was lost.

The Opposition leader quoted from the factory inspector's report of 1911 to the effect that it was difficult to secure in Canada standard and proper guards for machinery. From the 1910 report he read a statement of the inspector that a large maker of agricultural implements supplied hoods to cover exposed gears and dangerous parts of machinery intended for the German market, but did not provide any hoods or protection whatever for machines sold in Canada.

Mr. Rowell also moved (1) to prevent persons under the age of sixteen from operating elevators; (2) in case a child, youth, young girl or woman appears to be physically unable to perform the work upon which she is engaged the inspector shall have power to prohibit the employment of such person; (3) that no employer shall take into his employment any person under the age of fifteen years who cannot read at sight and write legibly simple sentences of prose. The amendment was lost.

Mr. Lucas took the ground, as on a former occasion, that the bill was from the Statute Revision Commission, and such new principle should

be introduced by direct legislation, and not amendment in committee. The position of the Opposition might be proper for platform purposes.

Mr. Rowell's second amendment was:—

"No employer shall take into his employment any child, youth, or young girl under the age of fifteen years who cannot produce a certificate from the Principal of the school which such child, youth or young girl last attended, or from the school inspector of the municipality in which the employer carries on his business, certifying that such child, youth or young girl is able to read at sight and write legibly simple sentences of prose, and has such other educational qualifications as may be prescribed by regulations to be passed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council."

Amendment to Election Act.

The Liberal leader appealed to the members to give patient consideration to the bill introduced by Mr. William McDonald (Centre Bruce) providing for an amendment to the Ontario election act. No real objections had come by extending the franchise to women in municipal elections. On the whole good had resulted from the extension of the franchise so far as it had been extended, and he thought further good would result if the bill under consideration was passed.

Further consideration of the bill was deferred, upon the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Hanna.

Mr. W. McDonald thought all members would view the proposal to extend the Provincial franchise to women who vote at municipal elections. In moving the second reading he said the question had been advocated many years ago, and on one occasion nearly became law.

Mr. Gooderham's bill to have all vehicles stop before passing a street car travelling in the same direction was sent to the Municipal Committee.

Dr. McQueen wanted a further amendment made so that a child, youth, young girl or woman if found to be physically unable, or the work is harmful to health, may be prohibited from continuing in the employment, until a physician has certified that the disability has passed away. He would transfer the administration of the factory act from the Department of Agriculture and place it under the Provincial Board of Health. The district officers of health were better able to judge of these conditions than laymen. This amendment was also voted down. The House sat until nearly midnight. The persistent advocacy of the Opposition resulted in only a few clauses passing.