

system already, and we propose spending \$350,000 on it this year. We have replaced our steam plant with electric motors in order to give the custom to the Commission, and we are not going to take any step which will jeopardize the Hydro's position in any way." He declared that the people demand a better street railway system, and would have it; hence the bill.

The Hon. Adam Beck stated that the Commission is safeguarded by the bill, but the citizens must be given an opportunity to deal intelligently with it. "If you violate the municipal act by combining the propositions, you create a dangerous precedent," he declared. "I am in favor of your spending more money on the one project, but I am absolutely opposed to the other. Divide them and allow the people to vote on what they like."

The question of giving the city of Toronto permission to negotiate for the purchase of the Toronto Street Railway was then submitted and passed.

MR. M'GUIGAN ALSO DECLINES TO EXPLAIN

Will Not Make Public Circumstances as to Settlement

Wants Evidence of Sothman, de Muralt and Engh, but Public Accounts Committee Rejects the Proposal—Col. Belcher to be Heard Later.

At the final sitting of the Public Accounts Committee yesterday Mr. N. W. Rowell conducted a further examination into the tenders for the high tension transmission line of the Hydro-electric Power Commission. Mr. F. H. McGuigan of the McGuigan Construction Company testified that the unit tender of the Muralt Company, to whom the work was subsequently sublet, was \$108,000 less than the tender of the Merrir-Ruckaber-Fraser Company, which was used as the basis of comparison.

Mr. McGuigan declined to give any further information regarding his dealings with Muralt until the litigation over the settlement of the account was disposed of.

"I want to ask you again," said Mr. Rowell, "if during the progress of the negotiations to arrive at a settlement of your claim against the Hydro-electric Power Commission you said if you did not get a settlement you would expose something?"

"I decline to answer that."

Wants Evidence Secured.

Before the committee adjourned Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) presented a motion that in view of the evidence that had been adduced it was desirable that the committee recommend to the House that a commission issue to take the evidence of Mr. P. W. Sothman, Mr. C. L. de Muralt and J. Engh, but the proposal was rejected on the ground that the motion recited a set of facts that constituted an argument, and reflected upon the members of the Hydro-electric Power Commission.

Mr. Elliott contended that the reasons given in his motion for the issue of the commission had been placed there at the suggestion of the Chairman.

"I want to give my hearty support to the motion," said Mr. C. M. Bowman (North Bruce). "I think the facts disclosed before this committee warrant the position taken by Mr. Elliott. There is no doubt the witnesses mentioned in the motion could give valuable evidence in connection with this matter."

Some discussion arose over the attendance of Lieutenant-Col. Belcher, who was summoned at Mr. Elliott's instance two weeks ago. A physician's certificate was produced showing that

Col. Belcher was confined to his house with a cold on the chest and Mr. Elliott asked that a portion of the committee be delegated to attend on him and secure his evidence. This was not followed, but Mr. Elliott secured a pledge from the Chairman and Mr. McGarry that they would use their influence at the next session to have the accounts relating to these matters referred to next year's committee.

"I have no doubt if a request were made in the House that it would be permitted," remarked Mr. Ferguson.

"I will be glad to use my influence to support such a proposal," said Mr. McGarry.

TORY MACHINE CRUSHES FOURTEEN AMENDMENTS

Reforms in Four Measures Denied the Province

THREE DIVISIONS IN DAY

Dr. McQueen Seeks in Vain the Appointment of a Non-partisan Civil Service Commission—Government Declines Safeguard to Marriage.

"Like chaff before the wind" fourteen Liberal amendments fell in the Legislature yesterday afternoon. They called for changes to the marriage act, the assessment act, the voters' list act and the municipal act. So prolific were members of the Opposition that Conservatives grew impatient towards evening, and cries of "Next, next," were heard before the steam-roller had passed over the one before the House. During the afternoon there were three divisions. The first was on Dr. McQueen's motion to amend the civil service act by providing for the creation of a non-partisan Civil Service Commission with adequate powers, and that all appointments and promotions in the public service, where practicable, should be by merit after suitable competitive examination. The vote stood seventeen for and sixty-four against. On the assessment amendments the divisions were 17-64 and 18-61. Dr. McQueen's amendment to the marriage act was rejected, and Hon. Mr. Hanna moved that the act become law on May 15, 1913, which carried.

What Amendments Asked.

The Liberal amendments to which the Government refused to lend a patient ear, let alone consideration, provided as follows:—

Issuers of marriage licenses who have reason to believe that either of the parties to the intended marriage is an idiot, insane, epileptic or imbecile, shall require the applicants to produce a certificate from a duly qualified medical practitioner to the effect that the parties so suspected are fit to be married.

The creation of a board of registration for the purpose of preparing, revising and giving effect to the voters' lists in territories without municipal organization and with power to appoint in each electoral district as many enumerators as may be necessary, the board to be composed of the district Judge, the Clerk of the District Court and the Registrar of Deeds for the district.

The taking away from corporations the right to vote on money by-laws.

Increase in the amount of income exempted from taxation.

Assessment of land, real property and real estate at its actual value; assessment of income and improvements at a percentage of their value.

Relief for the farmers, stock-raisers and market gardeners of northern Ontario from taxation on improvements.

That in connection with the land grant to the Canadian Northern Railway the company shall be compelled to place at least 500 male settlers per year for five years on the land in question and at least