

TAXES GO ON FOREVER, BUT TAX REFORM LAGS

Hon. Mr. Foy Says Government
is Not Ready for It

MR. JOHNSON'S DRASTIC BILL

Would Prevent Municipalities Invest-
ing Sinking Funds in Their Own
Debentures—Mr. Anderson With-
draws Bill Concerning Autos.

Three bills advanced to the second reading and sent on to the Municipal Committee constituted the bulk of the work performed by the Legislature yesterday. The expected debate on Mr. McCormack's bill to give municipalities local option in taxation did not come up, Mr. Foy stating that the Government was not ready. Mr. Hanna intimated that the Government would wait until a convenient time in the session and have all proposed amendments to the municipal and assessments act considered together, as economizing both time and effort.

Mr. J. G. Anderson (South Bruce) secured a second reading of his bill to enable township Councils to deliver tax notices by mail instead of having the collector deliver them in person. He seeks to place the townships on the same basis as cities, towns and villages.

Investment of Sinking Funds.

A bill by Mr. J. W. Johnson (West Hastings) to prevent municipalities investing sinking funds in their own debentures was sent on to the Municipal Committee. The Provincial Secretary was somewhat dubious about the effect of the bill, claiming that the present act, if honestly observed, would give the original debenture holders ample protection. Mr. Johnson contended these were trust funds and should not be subject to manipulation by Town Clerks, but the Provincial Secretary pointed out that sinking funds in the bank only drew a low rate of interest, while the municipality, if it could not use that money would have to pay much higher rates for what it had to borrow.

Mr. J. McFarlan (East Middlesex) enjoys the distinction of having a bill to amend the municipal act given a second reading during his first session in the House. The bill, while a general amendment, applies to a local situation in Middlesex county, and provides for the extension of boundaries of police villages.

Owing to a preponderance of feeling against giving County Councils the power to prohibit automobiles from using country roads twenty-four hours in the week. Mr. Anderson (South Bruce) withdrew a bill containing this proposal. Since introducing the bill Mr. Anderson frankly stated that he had no hope of even getting the House to consent to a six-hour prohibition.

Experimental Station Cost \$148,022.

When the questions by members were called, Mr. Anderson was informed that the Jordan Harbor Experimental Station had cost to date \$148,022, and Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) was told that 2,240 domestic servants were admitted to the Province in respect of the money expended for bonuses and advances to agents and organizations.

A number of other questions were allowed to stand over, although Mr. Rowell urged that answers be given as members were anxious to deal with the information.

In reply to an inquiry of the leader of the Opposition when the redistribution bill would be ready, Mr. Foy was unable to say definitely. The Government was working on the measure, but he had no idea when it would be given to the House.