

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO DISTRIBUTE COST

TORONTO-HAMILTON HIGHWAY BILL NOW READY FOR FINAL READING.

The special committee that has been considering the Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission bill has put the finishing touches on it, and the House will now put it through the final stages.

The committee yesterday made two important changes. One of these puts upon the shoulders of the Municipal Councils of the townships between the two cities the responsibility for distributing the cost of the work apart from the set contribution each township makes. The original bill assessed the property-owners directly benefited by means of a frontage and acreage tax. The farmers taxed opposed this, requesting a wider area over which to spread the tax. The committee's amendment puts the whole thing in the hands of the Municipal Councils. The Commission will fix the amount each township is expected to raise.

The clause providing for maintenance after a period of twenty years was struck out. Hamilton protested against the two cities being responsible for maintenance after that period. The townships protested that they should escape if the cities did, and the dispute was settled by striking out all reference to the road after twenty years. The proposal of the Civic Guild that the Commission should have the right to make the roadway 100 feet wide, instead of 66, was turned down, but Mr. McGarry's suggestion that the Railway Board should have power to decide if widening was necessary was adopted.

WILL NOT PROVIDE WATER FOR YORK TP.

COUNSEL GEARY HAD APPLICATION TO LEGISLATURE THROWN OUT.

Corporation Counsel Geary succeeded before the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday in having the application of York township to compel the city to provide a water service thrown out. Dr. Forbes Godfrey (West York) and Mr. Geo. S. Henry (East York) fought hard for the life of the bill, but the committee thought they were asking too much. The city members strongly opposed the bill. Hon. J. J. Foy, Hon. R. A. Pyne, Messrs. Hook, Owens, Price and Russell assisted Mr. Geary.

Mr. W. H. Price, member for Parkdale—Your request practically means that you are asking the city to supply water to an area in the township of twenty miles long and 1,000 feet wide on three sides of the city, making an area of twenty-five acres, or practically the same area as a city of 50,000 people?

Mr. Stair—Yes, that is about what it means. But why shouldn't the city supply the water. They do it immediately after annexing these districts.

Mr. Geary pointed out that the bill sought to make the Ontario Railway Board override the municipal act. Dr. Godfrey contended that it was understood a year ago that the parties were to get together. "The question should be settled here," said Reeve Griffith. It was.