

REMOVE HANDICAP ON MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

Mr. Rowell Urges Change in Property Qualification Law

PRISON FARM EXPENSES

Premier Hearst Says He is Sympathetic With Proposed Change in Law Affecting Municipal Candidates—Consider Poolroom Licenses

The anomaly in the present law which requires no property qualification for members of Parliament or the Legislature, but yet demands that candidates for municipal offices have such qualification, was pointed out in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Mr. N. W. Rowell, in urging upon the Government the adoption of the principle of the bill of Mr. Joseph Ham (South Brant) to lower the qualification, so that what enabled a man to vote should qualify him to hold office. The Liberal leader referred to the request made to the Government by a deputation representing the labor organizations some time ago, which presented the case of labor, he thought, with conviction and force. He believed the move was entirely in the public interest. Property qualifications were fast passing away, and it was unreasonable to expect a man to exercise a Parliamentary franchise on less grounds than he would exercise a municipal vote.

A Man Should Have Vocation.

Premier Hearst expressed sympathy with the proposal. He would not attempt to discuss the merits of the bill. He recalled the labor deputation, which had laid its demands before the Government in a manner worthy of every commendation. This and many other requests would engage the attention of the Government. The present laws had been on the statute books for years. Amendments had been made from time to time, but the Legislature should not set lightly about the task of changing laws, and should only do so when it was convinced that the change would work out best for the Province and the municipalities. He thought the question of permanency should be considered. A man should have a vocation in a municipality before he was entitled to participate directly in its administration.

An Act of Justice.

Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton), continuing the discussion on the second reading of Mr. Ham's bill to make the property qualification for municipal candidates the same as that of voters, said what was asked was simply an act of justice. He strongly criticized the attitude of the Provincial Secretary, saying he had backslidden too much this session. This Government would not do anything for the worker except tax him.

Mr. Samuel Carter (South Wellington) strongly supported the bill. He spoke in praiseworthy terms of the ability working men had exhibited in the trade union movement and also in municipal Councils. To facilitate the entrance of working men into Councils he was confident would result in a greater brake being put on the debt of municipalities. His experience had been that where working men had been on the Councils efforts had been made against increasing debt. The member for South Wellington roundly condemned the practice in municipalities of granting