

Just what was contained in the bill to amend the liquor license act introduced by Hon. W. J. Hanna into the Legislature last week formed an interesting subject of discussion on the orders of the day being called in the Legislature yesterday. The bill had only been printed for distribution a short time before the Rouse met, and Mr. William Proudfoot (Centre Huron) said that the bill did not carry out the explanation made by the Provincial Secretary when moving the first reading of his bill. Mr. Proudfoot said the bill as printed did not contain any mention of prohibiting the sale of liquor to soldiers in uniform.

Mr. Hanna replied that the bill contained an ample provision to cover the sale of liquor to any class.

Mr. Proudfoot wanted to know what clause.

"Clause 9, sub-section 'B,'" replied Mr. Hanna.

Mr. Proudfoot protested that the bill as printed was not the one introduced, that a material change had been made, and asked for the ruling of the Speaker.

"On what?" asked the Provincial Secretary.

"On the matter that has been brought up. This is not the bill that was introduced."

"I submit it is not," said Mr. Rowell, taking part in the discussion.

"The bill has in it every provision that we suggested to the House," declared Mr. Hanna, and while perhaps not in the language he used, he added it would no doubt suit the purpose better.

Bill Had Been Changed.

Mr. Rowell said that when the bill was not available from the printer the Provincial Secretary had sent word to his office that he might see a draft at the office of the Chief Clerk of the License Department. He did not have it, but had sent it to the Law Clerk, where he said it was. "In that draft was a provision dealing expressly with the soldiers. That clause is not in the bill. It was in the bill which my hon. friend (Mr. Hanna) gave on the first reading to the House."

"We are protesting," continued Mr. Rowell, "against the Government dealing with a bill in the custody of the House."

Mr. Hanna said at the time the bill was introduced its terms had not been settled by the Legal Department.

Pressed for his ruling, Speaker Jamieson said there was no actual bill before the House. "The bill was introduced in blank."

Premier to the Defence.

Premier Hearst then took a hand in the debate. "We are not going into a discussion as to the recollection of the occurrence," said he. "My recollection is that the bill was introduced in blank. A blank sheet of paper was handed in. This is done every day."

The matter was then disposed of, but will likely be heard of again on the second reading of the bill.

COMPENSATION BILL AND POWER AMENDMENTS

TWO GOVERNMENT MEASURES UNDER FIRE IN THE LEGIS- LATURE.

When the bill to amend the Power Commission act was in committee in the Legislature last night Mr. Samuel Carter (South Wellington) said there was a general feeling among the municipalities that they should have a representative on the Commission to whom they could appeal.

The section relating to the composition of the Commission in cities over 100,000 which have a contract with the Hydro-electric Commission raised some discussion.

Mr. Rowell thought the municipalities should be allowed to elect their Commissioners. He moved an amendment that two Commissioners be appointed by the Council and the third member be the Mayor. Mr. Carter seconded. The amendment was defeated.

The Price of Money.

Mr. Lucas brought down two important amendments. One gives the Lieutenant-Governor in Council authority to raise the rate of interest charged on advances to the municipalities. The present rate is four per cent., but as money is now costing the Province much more than this, to prevent loss the interest rate on future advances will be adjusted according to the price at which the Government can get the money.

Responding to a request by many municipalities, the act is to be changed to provide that any surplus realized from the operation of any public utility may be turned over to the municipality for the credit of the general fund.

Compensation Criticisms.

In moving for a return for correspondence with reference to the appointment of the workmen's compensation Commissioners, Mr. Carter (South Wellington) thought at least \$5,000 could have been saved to the Province in the salaries paid to the Commissioners. He was opposed to the patronage system, and particularly criticized the appointment of Mr. A. W. Wright as Vice-Chairman, at sixty-eight years of age "to learn a new business," as an outrage.

The Premier replied that while the present Government was not responsible for the appointment of the Commission, it had no apologies to make. Sir James Whitney had given a great deal of thought and attention to the selection of Chairman.

The Attorney-General's bill to make necessary amendments to the workmen's compensation act received some discussion on the second reading.

A suggestion by Mr. Rowell that a first-aid provision be adopted was sympathetically received by Hon. Mr. Lucas.