

LEGISLATURE RUSHING TO WIND UP BUSINESS

An All-night Session Prob- able—Many Matters Un- der Debate—Borrowing Powers Heavy—More Objections to the License Amendments

In a final effort to conclude the business of the session to-day, the Legislature settled down yesterday on the remaining bills, and at an early hour this morning was still in session. It looked then as if the House would have an all-night sitting, and thus clear the decks for prorogation this week. A number of important measures were before the House during the day, including the amendments to the workmen's compensation act, the highway bill, supply bills and the liquor license amendments. On the latter the Liberals, though defeated on the second reading early the morning before, urged objections to unsatisfactory features of the bill as it now stands.

Workmen's Compensation Act.

The wearied legislators at Queen's Park, after their all-night sitting, went into committee yesterday afternoon on the bill amending the workmen's compensation act. Hon. Mr. Lucas, Attorney-General, added a new clause to the effect that such lump sum as the board may determine be advanced where needy workmen or dependents urgently required money otherwise than the 55 per cent. allowance.

Mr. Rowell—In connection with this clause do I understand the intention is to make the advance a charge upon the amount payable to the workman or his dependents in the case?

Hon. Mr. Lucas—The intention is that the advance will eventually be payable back to the board out of moneys payable to the injured party, although if we did not give the wide discretion that the clause has it might be that that money would never become payable.

The bill as amended passed through committee and was given a third reading.

Highway Improvement Act.

The House in committee then passed on to the bill to amend the highway improvement act. A good deal of discussion centred around the clause regarding maintenance and repair. It was set forth in the bill that all sums of money expended by the corporation of a county upon the maintenance and repair in any system of roads assumed by by-law of the Council of the county under the highways improvement act may be included in the statement of expenditure mentioned in that act, and the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may direct the payment to the corporation of the county of a sum equal to 20 per cent. of such expenditure, but no payment shall be made to the corporation of a county unless the regulations of the department with respect to maintenance and repair have been complied with by the corporation of the county. It was also provided that the aid authorized may be granted in the case of a county which has heretofore established a county road system on account of work done during 15 years from the date of the passing of the act, and in the case of a County Council which hereafter assumes a system of county roads such aid may be granted with respect to

work during 15 years from the date upon which the by-law of the County Council creating the system is approved.

Fairness to Old Counties.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) thought it would be only fair to these counties that had built permanent roads ten or twelve years ago or less that they should receive a higher amount than 20 per cent., and suggested 40 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Macdiarmid, Minister of Public Works, thought 20 per cent. was satisfactory.

Mr. Nelson Parliament (Prince Edward) was of the opinion that it should be included in the act that roads should be built by contract under the supervision of a competent officer of the Government.

Mr. Elliott pointed out an interesting feature of the bill, which provided that all funds raised by the sale of municipal debentures for road purposes must be so expended. The application of such funds for other purposes would render the members of the municipal Council personally liable, and could be recovered at law. Disqualification for two years also followed such action. The member for West Middlesex pointed out that this was just what the Opposition wanted the Government to do with its own funds.

Larger Grant for Seed.

The bill to enable the Government to supply seed for settlers in Northern Ontario out of the Northern Ontario Development Fund was amended in committee by raising the amount from \$100,000 to \$150,000. The Premier said that subsequent information had been received which indicated that the need was much greater than was at first supposed, and he wanted to be in a position to deal adequately with the situation.

Province's Borrowings Subject of Anxiety

When the supply bill to grant \$14,500,000 voted in the estimate came down, Mr. Rowell put a series of questions as to how the Provincial Treasurer was going to provide for that sum plus the statutory expenditure for the coming year.

Hon. Mr. McGarry replied that although estimated at \$10,000,000, the receipts would probably be \$12,000,000.

Mr. Rowell, calculating the statutory expenditure at the same figure as last year—\$4,500,000—pointed out that the expenditure would be \$19,000,000. The Treasurer had put the income at \$12,000,000 and there was \$4,000,000 in borrowing. He would like to know if it was the hope, to make things meet, to reduce the expenditure by \$3,000,000, \$2,000,000 or \$1,000,000?

Hon. Mr. McGarry—I am not so optimistic.

A Difference.

Mr. Rowell—Then there is a difference of \$3,000,000 unless you can reduce. How do you intend to provide that?

The Treasurer—It is all provided for. We have borrowing powers unused under our act.

Mr. Rowell asked if the Treasurer, with the \$4,000,000, the \$1,850,000 already borrowed, plus the cash on hand of \$1,000,000 and the ordinary revenues, expected to provide for the expenditure of the year.

Hon. Mr. McGarry—Yes.

Mr. Rowell—That is pretty substantial borrowing for the year.

The resolution was passed.

When the bill for raising money on the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund came up Mr. C. M. Bowman (West Bruce) asked the Treasurer if he had made any investigation as to whether it was possible to dispose of the securities of the Province on a more favorable basis. The recent sale of \$3,000,000 had sold at nominally a trifle over par, but had attached to it a $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. commission.

Hon. Mr. McGarry replied that the tender of Home, Smith & Co. was the highest, the figure being 100.38. The next highest bid was considerably below par.