

STIR UP SLEEPERS TO PROTECT FORESTS

Vigorous Liberal Protests in Legislature Followed by Steps to Save Ontario's Timber Lands From Fire —Busy Day in Provincial Parliament

The appointment of Mr. E. J. Zavitz as Provincial Forester was announced.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson's bill to preserve the forests from destruction by fire was given a second reading.

The Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines stated that in future returned soldiers or men who volunteered for active service will have the preference when appointments in his department are being considered.

These were the features of the proceedings in the Legislature yesterday. The announcements made by Hon. Mr. Ferguson followed vigorous speeches by Liberal members, led by Mr. Charles M. Bowman, Liberal Whip, in which the Government was urged to take steps for the proper protection of Ontario's timber resources.

Dairy Standards Act.

When the second reading of the bill to amend the dairy standards act came up, Mr. G. A. Gillespie (West Peterboro') said he would like if they could make the measure more definite in regard to its coming into effect. He was quite in sympathy with the withholding of the bill for the time being for further educational work, but he felt that they should say it should come into force at some definite period. The bill was one of the most far-reaching and beneficial in the history of the dairy industry in Canada, and he thought if they did not insert some definite time the feeling might get abroad that the bill would be finally withdrawn.

Opinion Veering to Bill.

Premier Hearst replied that that point could be considered in committee. He had tried to make himself clear on the introduction of the bill that he thought the bill was right in principle and that it was the proper system to adopt. Public opinion was changing very rapidly in favor of the bill. It only required, he thought, a proper campaign of education.

The bill was given a second reading.

Future of Municipal Bureau.

In moving the second reading of the bureau of municipal affairs act, Hon. W. D. McPherson said by establishing such a bureau the usefulness of appointing a director would be demonstrated, and then it would be seen whether or not it was desirable to set out in a larger direction.

Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) scored tax exemptions, saying that he had fought against this system for thirty years. It was not fair competition. The municipalities were crying out for some expert help on different matters. He asked the Provincial Secretary to take some of the "may-be's" out of the bill and put in something positive and definite.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) said unless the man who was Director of the Bureau was head and shoulders above the people in various municipalities who were going to him for information there would be very little advantage derived from it.

Mr. A. H. Musgrove (North Huron) opined that what the municipalities were most in need of just now was expert advice.

First Step in Important Branch.

Hon. Mr. McPherson welcomed the suggestions which had been made.