

30 per cent. of that part of the cost of construction or improvement which would have been expended by the municipal corporation for local purposes, the remainder to be borne by the Province. After construction, the maintenance of the bridge will be in the same proportion as the remainder of the highway.

The bill provides that the department shall have all the powers exercised by a municipal corporation, authorized to lay out, maintain and construct highways.

Provision is made for various details such as electric or street railways, trees growing on the highway, the location of fences and buildings, telephone, telegraph and electric light or power lines; the survey of roads, the construction of sidewalks by interested municipalities; and the regulation of traffic.

In reply to Mr. Rowell, Hon. Mr. Macdormid said the 30 per cent. paid by the municipalities through which the road runs is a compulsory payment after the road is assumed. Provision is made that any point of dispute as to assessment shall be referred to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board.

Hon. T. W. McGarry introduced a bill to amend the tile drainage act, and explained that the object was to increase the amount which can be loaned to any one municipality from \$50,000 to \$100,000, and the total which may be loaned under the act from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

#### Women On Voters' List.

Sir William Hearst informed Mr. Rowell that the machinery whereby the names of the women could be put on the voters' list was in the hands of the draftsmen now. He also stated that the amendments to the Ontario temperance act would be down in a few days.

In moving the second reading of the bill to amend the Boards of Education act, Mr. G. H. Gooderham (Southwest Toronto) stated that it was proposed that the members of the Board of Education be elected annually. He was in favor of the principle of electing members to the Board of Education and the City Council at the same time, though he was opposed to the principle of annual elections. He thought if there was a longer term for both bodies

better men would be brought out to fill those positions.

#### A Toronto Fad?

Mr. Musgrove (North Huron)—If the bill applies to the whole Province then I say I do not believe there is one out of ten boards wants this. I only thought it was one of these Toronto fads that come before us every year, and we should not pay attention. (Laughter.)

Hon. Thomas Crawford said the voters of Toronto had expressed themselves in connection with the subject.

Mr. Musgrove—That does not say they are right.

Hon. Mr. Crawford said the present system had not worked very satisfactorily, and very little interest was taken in the election of members of the Board of Education. As to the expression of the members of Huron, he thought the hon. gentleman went really too far, and was perhaps not particularly acquainted with the interests of a great city like Toronto.

#### Premier Respects People's Will.

Premier Hearst pointed out that the bill provided that only in cases where a majority of the people had indicated by their votes that they wanted the annual election of trustees would that system become operative. In view of the expressed wish of the electors of the city of Toronto he thought it only right the bill should get its second reading, and go to the Municipal Committee, where the details could be thrashed out and whatever might be necessary in connection with the bill could be determined.

#### Has Support of Government.

"It goes there with the approval and support of the Government," said Sir William. He added that Section 6 of the Board of Education act only referred to cities having a population of more than 200,000. The bill might, therefore, only apply to the city of Toronto; but anything of that kind could be adjusted in the Municipal Committee. It was quite true, as Mr. Musgrove had said, that there

was no demand from the rural sections, towns, and small cities.

The bill got its second reading, and was referred to the Municipal Committee.

The bill to amend the dairy standards act passed through committee.

#### Celebrate Confederation Jubilee.

Mr. Rowell gives notice that he will on Wednesday, in the Legislature, move that a select committee be appointed to consider and report on the action which the Province should take to fittingly commemorate the fiftieth year of Confederation, and to co-operate with any committee which may be appointed for this purpose by the Government or Parliament of Canada.

#### Wants Definite Information.

Mr. Richardson (East Wellington) will, on Wednesday, submit a motion for a return of all correspondence and documents at any time passing between the Director of Industries, Ontario Reformatory, and the Assistant Provincial Secretary, referring to Alexander McPherson, foreman, Ontario Reformatory Industries, and Fred. W. French, Assistant Director of Ontario Reformatory Industries, or either of them, or relating to any matters arising between the said Alexander McPherson and Fred. W. French.

## MINISTRY VERY FOGGY ON MUNICIPAL BUREAU

### Messrs. Rowell and Dewart Expose Governmental Haziness on Its Own Leg- islation—"Will Appoint a Director to Direct it," Comments Southwest To- ronto Member, Amid Laughter

Pertinent criticism was offered by Mr. N. W. Rowell and Mr. H. Hartley Dewart when the municipal bureau bill was in committee in the Legislature yesterday. The leader of the Opposition declared the measure virtually continued the existing service, and created a new branch instead of doing what the municipalities asked, to co-ordinate the existing service and give the additional powers necessary to deal with municipalities. "It multiplies the services without accomplishing the purpose the municipalities had in view," affirmed Mr. Rowell. "It seems to me that a compromise measure has been adopted which does not do what the municipalities desired, and at the same time increases the expense of administering the public service."

#### Mr. McPherson's "Defence."

Hon. Mr. McPherson, Provincial Secretary, maintained that the Government had gone a long way towards co-ordinating the various branches of the service. He felt it would turn out a very useful bureau indeed. There was ample power provided for imposing such further duties upon the bureau as from time to time might be necessary. The Government could not see its way to adopt all the suggestions by the municipalities, and to organize a new department entirely. He thought it would be found in a short time that this branch, under a responsible head, would come to be regarded by the municipalities as a very distinct advantage.

#### To Supersede Municipal Board?

Mr. Rowell—Is it contemplated, or is it not, to transfer from the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board its administrative municipal functions to this new department?

Hon. Mr. McPherson—The Govern-