

ment will be advised by one whom they will select as well versed in matters of municipal law, and who will advise as to how these services will best be made uniform.

Mr. Dewart's Protest.

Mr. Hartley Dewart—It seems to me that is putting the burden on the wrong shoulders. Some man we don't know and know nothing about is to be chosen as director, and then he is going to advise the Minister.

The member for Southwest Toronto declared there was no definition of the duties of the director of this department, and no differentiation between the duties of the bureau and those of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, and he did not think they should have the act in this shape.

Hon. Mr. McPherson—The bill has been submitted to those who are responsible for the raising of this subject to the attention of the Government, and I am informed that it meets with their approval. They are quite satisfied with it, and think the measure will be a step towards what they want.

No Clear View on Matter.

Mr. Rowell—The net result, I gather from my hon. friend, is that neither he nor the Government has any clear view on the matter. They have no conviction yet as to whether these duties should be assigned to this bureau or not. They are going ahead without really knowing the direction in which they are tending, and have not any clear conception of what the functions of this Board will be in future. I submit my hon. friend should give us what is contemplated.

Hon. Mr. McPherson—I think the hon. gentleman when he peruses the bill fully will see that we have assigned very considerable duties to the director. He will be a busy man from the time he assumes office till he advises the Government as to any changes.

Mr. Rowell, persisting in his question as to what was contemplated in the way of transferring certain things from the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board to the bureau, declared he was afraid the Minister's attitude was "we don't know anything about it."

Directed by the "Director?"

Mr. Dewart—He is going to be directed when he appoints a director.

The Toronto Liberal member also stated that as far as he could understand from the Minister's reply to a question, the work of the department had become so onerous that there were to be three Deputy Ministers—one to have supervision over the institutions, another to deal with legal and departmental details, and the third to look after municipal affairs.

The bill passed through committee.

INDIANS WHO SERVE TO GET FRANCHISE

Liberal Leader Appeals on Behalf of Brave Nurses

IRISH ADMITS IGNORANCE

Confesses He Doesn't Know Meaning of Bill He Introduces—Northeast Toronto Member Demonstrates His Interest in Constituents.

Hon. T. W. McGarry, Provincial Treasurer, was warmly applauded in the Legislature yesterday when he introduced an amendment to his bill for the enfranchisement of soldiers and sailors who were residents of Ontario at the time of enlistment. "The amendment," announced Mr. McGarry, "provides for the enfranchisement of Indians who joined the colors in Ontario, no matter whether they are of full age of twenty-one or not." This legislation will put Indians who are serving with the forces on the same footing as other citizens of the Province who are on active service. Men of any age are given the right to vote, on the theory that if they are old enough to fight they are old enough to vote.

Liberal Leader's Tribute to Nurses.

Mr. Rowell made an important suggestion in this connection. He said men in the active militia who were guarding bridges, canals and other places of importance were already provided for in regard to voting, and male members of the Canadian expeditionary force were now being enfranchised; but there was one class not provided for in Mr. McGarry's bill, namely, the nurses who were serving with the expeditionary force. "When we are dealing expressly with those on active service we should not forget these brave women," said the Liberal leader. "We should arrange that their names go on the lists at the same time as the names of the men who are on active service. (Applause.) The Department of Militia and Defence will have their names. I understand some six hundred young women have gone overseas from Ontario."

The Provincial Treasurer said the nurses would be provided for in the bill enfranchising the women of the Province.

Didn't Know His Own Bill.

When the second reading of bill 109, "to amend the public health act," was called, it became apparent that some of the Toronto members know little about the bills they introduce. The bill in question stood on the order paper in the name of Mr. Mark H. Irish (Northeast Toronto), and when Mr. Rowell inquired what the measure provided for Mr. Irish frankly confessed that he did not know. None of the other members seemed to know much about it either, although the Hon. Thomas Crawford thought the matter had been "fought out by the City Council." Mr. Rowell said they should not pass a bill if they did not know what its contents were, but the bill was sent on to the Municipal Committee.

A bill introduced by Mr. H. Hartley Dewart, to amend the assessment act, was also sent on to committee.