

aid, and there is a new clause that no contribution shall be taken directly or indirectly, and penalties are provided in case of evasion of this.

Justice For All.

The Attorney-General drew attention to a new clause which at first blush, he said, might be rather startling, but at second did not appear so startling. In the past the board had followed English decisions on various points, but in cases which seemed to work out unjustly the proposal was that the board henceforth shall decide upon the real merit and justice of the case and shall not follow strict legal precedent. He cited a case of a trainman who had crossed from one crew to talk with another railwayman, and in coming back had been killed by an express train. A British decision held that in such a case the man was not in the course of his employment. In Ontario the board would in future decide such cases on their merits rather than by following precedent elsewhere. The principle of equity and conscience would prevail.

Mr. Sam Carter—Common sense.

Proposed Changes in Act.

The Attorney-General intimated a number of other amendments. Section 31 of the workmen's compensation act was one which fixes the scale of compensation where the injury turns out to be fatal. It provided for a pension for the widow and certain allowances for the children. The allowance was \$5 a month for each child until the age of sixteen was attained. Under the new proposal, where the widow dies, the allowance to the surviving children will be doubled. Another provision was that the same care would be taken of an adopted child as of an ordinary child of a workman who was killed. In the case of a child who came under the circumstances above mentioned and was over sixteen years of age, and was an invalid and unable to take care of himself or herself, the age limit would be removed, and the contribution would go on and be continued as long as it could have been reasonably expected the deceased workman would have contributed had he survived.

Includes Executive Officers.

Another feature had reference to executive officers of companies. Under the present law an employer may go on the payroll himself if he accepts all the hazards of the business and shall be covered by the insurance, but there was no provision for the great number of companies where the executive officers were really in the same position as employers. The amendment placed the executive officers of the company in the same position as an employer. Provision would be made in the cases of men who were residents of Ontario, were employed in Ontario, but temporarily crossed the boundary line to Quebec.

In addition to paying the salaries of the Compensation Board the Government may, under the new act, contribute \$100,000 a year to the administration expenses.

Matter of Rates.

Replying to Mr. Rowell, the Attorney-General said he was not an expert, and could not answer with definiteness the question as to whether the present rate of assessment would cover all the provisions in the amended act. The board hoped to reduce their rates in some respects this year, and while in the end medical aid might mean a higher amount than was anticipated, he hoped there would not be any substantial increase in the rate on that account.

Mr. Rowell said he was glad the Government had come to the same view as the Opposition regarding first aid provision. The Attorney-General had said it had been suggested many times from the Opposition side of the House, but the Liberals had not given the practical help. "I assume my hon. friend has got to the stage," said Mr. Rowell, amid Liberal laughter, "when it is not sufficient for us to give him a policy, but we must actually frame it. We pointed out when

the workmen's compensation act was before the House that this provision must come. We submitted an amendment favoring first aid, but the Government voted it down. I am glad the Government has now seen this is essential and provision must be made." The Opposition leader said the details could be discussed when the bill was before the House, but one thing that occurred to him was whether or not there should be provision in protracted cases—where the illness extended beyond a month.

Mr. Rowell's Suggestions.

Hon. Mr. Lucas—My hon. friend makes many new and useful suggestions. As has been said, those that are new are not useful, and the useful ones are seldom new. (Laughter.) It is an easy thing for an Opposition to say something should be done, and when the Government brings legislation down, assumes the responsibility, then say "We go one better, and we are clever fellows because we suggested you go one better." (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. J. C. Elliott, referring to the amendment where the board would have wider powers to deal with cases on their merits and thus avoid injustices, asked if this would be made retroactive and apply to cases which might come under the category aimed at.

Hon. Mr. Lucas—We will give that consideration.

The bill was read a first time.

Take Up Death of Archibald Taylor.

The House allowed Mr. Elliott's motion for a return of copies of all documents and correspondence passing between the Workmen's Compensation Board, or any member, officer or employee thereof, the personal representatives of Archibald Taylor (deceased), late of Sarnia, Ontario, or any person or persons acting on their behalf, and the Grand Trunk Railway Company or any employee or officer thereof.

Mr. Rowell put a question as to the McGarry act of last session, and Hon. Mr. Lucas replied no Comptroller had been appointed. A special auditor was going over the Hydro accounts.

MUST REDRAFT CLAUSE IN AGRICULTURE BILL

MR. ROWELL'S CRITICISM BRINGS PREMIER HEARST TO RECON- SIDER MEASURE.

Mr. Rowell, the Liberal leader in the Legislature, scored a point at Premier Hearst's expense yesterday, when the bill to reorganize the Agricultural Department was in committee. When the particular clause the Opposition leader had in mind was reached, he pointed out he understood the Premier to say the previous evening in the course of the second reading debate that the positions of Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner were advisory, and would not interfere with the administrative work of

the department. "But," said Mr. Rowell, "the clause just now before the House expressly gives the Commissioner the general supervision of the work of the department. The clause as it is in the bill is exactly as we on this side of the House represented the bill in the discussion. I was quite surprised on hearing my hon. friend's statement last evening."

"The draftsmanship is not my own, nor does it express what is in my mind," the Premier replied. "That section can stand in order that it be redrafted."

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) moved an amendment that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint one Deputy Minister of Agriculture and such officers and clerks as may be deemed necessary, instead of one or more Deputy Ministers. The Government side, however, did not favor any change in the bill, and the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Hartley Dewar did not think the proposed reorganization of the department was favored by the majority of those who had the farming interests of the Province at heart.