

# OPPOSE CHANGE IN SCHOOL ACT

Mr. Wm. Proudfoot Objects to  
City of Toronto Bill on  
Voters' Eligibility

## A RETROGRADE MOVEMENT

Attorney-General Said Present Sys-  
tem Causes Financial Loss in  
Preparing Lists.

Strong objection was taken by the Opposition Leader, Mr. William Proudfoot, in the Legislature yesterday to the city of Toronto bill to amend the Public School Act. The amendment is intended to make it possible for only voters eligible to vote at municipal elections to vote for members of the Board of Education. Mr. Mark Irish, who introduced the bill for the city, said that at present a list is prepared of thousands of electors having a property or income qualification of less than \$400 a year, and few of those on the list avail themselves of the franchise. Voters for the Mayoralty must have qualifications of \$400 or over. Hamilton, London and Ottawa, he said, are also anxious to have the bill passed by the House.

Mr. Proudfoot said the bill would apply to every municipality in the Province. He thought it was a retrograde movement, as the bill would take away from hundreds of people the right to vote. "I am in favor of placing a municipal elector in the same position as the voters who elect representatives for this House. Why there should be a different franchise I am unable to see," he said, believing that there should be a uniform franchise.

### Avoid Double Voters' Lists.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. Lucas, said that Mr. Irish had pointed out the way the present system works out and the loss financially in preparing the lists, whereas Mr. Proudfoot's contention was the theoretical side of it. He admitted that he himself never had been able to understand why there should be any distinction between one having the right to vote for municipal candidates and school trustees. If that was done away with it would eliminate the necessity for double voters' lists.

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

Mr. G. J. Musgrove of Niagara Falls introduced a bill to remove the property qualifications for candidates for municipal office. It was given its first reading.

### To Amend Assessment Act.

In moving the second reading of an amendment to the Assessment Act, J. A. Pinard of Ottawa said that Ottawa desired the same privilege as Toronto of charging interest at the rate of 6 per cent. on tax arrears instead of 5 per cent. Mr. Sam Carter of South Wellington was in sympathy with the bill, but felt that this would discriminate against the smaller cities, where the interest rate on borrowed money is often higher than in larger municipalities. At present it is a financial benefit to evade the act.

Mr. William Proudfoot thought that there was confusion as to just where the line should be drawn. He suggested that the committee could, if it thought desirable, amend the bill to cover all municipalities.

Other bills given second reading were: to amend the Statute Labor Act; to regulate the use of traction engines on highways; to amend the Bread Sales Act, making it possible for Toronto health authorities to inspect bakery shops; to amend the Police Magistrates Act, and bills respecting the county of Essex and the city of Kingston.

To carry out a treaty entered into between the United States and the British Governments, Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid, Minister of Public Works, introduced a bill to protect insectivorous and other migrating birds.