

GUELPH CIVIC GOVT. CHANGED

Private Bills Committee of Legislature Approves Drastic Changes

Drastic changes desired by the city of Guelph in its municipal administration were approved of by the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday. The experiment is one that will be closely watched by municipalities generally in the Province, as it is a question in which they are all deeply concerned.

At present there are six Public Utility Commissions in Guelph. Under this act they will be abolished. Mr. Sam Carter pointed out, and the work will be undertaken by the Council. Next year 18 Aldermen will be elected, the six securing the highest vote for a period of three years, the six securing the next highest votes for a term of two years, and the remainder for a term of one year. In this way there will be continuity of administration, whereas at the present time when new men are elected annually the work often suffers.

Administration Transformed.

Then, too, the bill provides that the city may level four mills on the assessment to be used for patriotic purposes. At the present time it is restricted to 15 mills. Permission was also given for the Mayor to be elected by the Council, instead of by the voters at large.

Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Solicitor-General of the Union Government, spoke in favor of the bill, and Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, Opposition leader, said that while it was a drastic step, Guelph was making the experiment itself, and it would be profitable to other cities.

When the bill for Scarboro' and Etobicoke townships came up, the clause providing that the city should supply them with water was struck out, when protest was made by Mark Irish. The city is short of water itself, he said, and it should not be compelled to make the outlying districts happy at the city's expense. Permission to construct waterworks and extend them was allowed.

The committee approved of the bill to incorporate the village of Mildmay, but not without opposition.

FISHERMEN PROTEST AGAINST GOVT. POLICY

TWO DEPUTATIONS WAIT UPON HON. FINLAY MACDIARMID AT QUEEN'S PARK.

Two deputations waited on Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid, Minister of Public Works, yesterday, to protest against the Government's policy in selling fish. One represented the Lake Erie Fishermen's Association, with about 700 members, and the other the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay Fishermen's Association.

Brock McAuley of Southampton said the price offered by the Government is inadequate. Of 800 fishermen in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, 150, as owners, have Government licenses. The Government price is only about half that paid by private dealers, he said. Mr. Macdiarmid replied briefly to the deputations, explaining the attitude of the Government, but made no definite statement. However, he promised consideration of the request.