

SOLDIERS IN MUNICIPALITIES

Bill Seeking to Abolish Property Qualifications Passed on by Government

LEGISLATURE'S QUIET DAY

Second Readings Given to Several Bills at Queen's Park.

Yesterday's session of the Legislature was quiet, the afternoon being spent in giving second readings to several bills and the introduction of others.

While the Government did not approve the principle of bills introduced in the Legislature seeking to abolish the property qualifications of candidates for municipal office, they were sent on to the Municipal Committee. During the debate it was pointed out that under the present statutes many returned soldiers, who in future will form a large part of every community, are unable to become candidates because they do not own \$1,000 worth of property.

Health Bill Sent on.

Mr. Hook's Toronto bill affecting the Board of Health was sent on to the Municipal Committee. The Attorney-General pointed out that the first clause in the bill seriously affected Boards of Health. If Boards of Health were to accomplish the work for which they were established they must have a fairly free hand. The Government was expecting that Boards of Health would take charge of the administration of the social diseases legislation, and if they were to deal with this and other diseases there must be responsibility behind them for finances. It would be fatal to the Board of Health if the City Council were left free to reject their accounts. The clause would affect not only Toronto, but Hamilton and Ottawa also.

Mr. Owens' Toronto bill to amend the Ontario Highways Act was withdrawn on the suggestion of the Hon. Findlay MacdIarmid. The Toronto member did not think cities should be obliged to contribute to the cost of constructing and maintaining roads many miles away from the city.

Another bill, introduced by Mr. Owens, to compel cemeteries to pay local improvement taxes, was referred to the Special Assessment Committee which is to sit during the recess.

Bills introduced by Mr. Musgrove (Niagara Falls) and Mr. Ham (Brant) to abolish the property qualifications of candidates for municipal office were referred to the Municipal Committee, although the Government did not approve of the principle of the measures. Speeches in support of Mr. Musgrove's bill were made by the mover, Allan Studholme, Mr. Ham of Brant, Mr. Carter, Mr. Wm. McDonald. It was pointed out that many returned soldiers are prevented from becoming candidates for municipal Councils because they do not own property worth \$1,000.

The second reading of a bill to amend the Municipal Act was moved by V. A. Sinclair of South Oxford. He explained that the object of the bill was to give more power to deal with a Board of Police Commissioners. Sir William Hearst said that under the proposed bill the Council would be able to dominate the Commission and for that reason it was

not a good thing. At the request of the Prime Minister, Mr. Sinclair withdrew the bill.

County Courts Act.

The Opposition Leader, Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, in speaking to his bill to amend the County Courts Act, said that it would facilitate the handling of cases and make quicker results possible. The bill would not do away with trial by jury, as that was a practise he firmly believed in. The bill was given second reading and sent on to the Legal Committee.

A bill to amend the Assessment Act so that in cities of more than 200,000 population persons having an income of \$600 or upwards will be compelled to file on a certain day with the municipality a statement showing the amount of such income, was given its second reading, on motion of Mr. G. H. Gooderham. Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce) thought it might be well if the bill applied to all municipalities. Hon. Mr. Lucas thought it was a somewhat severe measure, but it was sent on to the Municipal Committee.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson introduced a bill to amend the School Law Amendment Act. The bill makes several technical amendments to the Superannuation Fund Act, which is now in operation.

BILL TO DEFINE CERTAIN VOTERS

Municipal Committee Makes Recommendation Concerning Those Eligible to Vote for School Trustees

In future only British subjects and supporters of public schools will be eligible to vote for members of Boards of Education or public school trustees in the Province, if the Legislature adopts the recommendation of the Municipal Committee, which yesterday discussed the bill. While the bill was introduced in the House by Mr. Mark Irish, at the request of the city of Toronto, as it now stands, it will apply to all municipalities.

It was pointed out by Mr. Irish that there is a lot of unnecessary expense in the preparation of the separate lists. At the last municipal election in Toronto there were contests in only two wards for the Board of Education, and the preparation of the lists cost \$1,855. Of 1,300 persons on the list in Ward One, only six exercised the right to vote. The Opposition Leader agreed that only persons over the age of 21, and British subjects, should be allowed to vote, but he did not think there should be a property qualification.

Licensing of Bakeries.

Municipalities hereafter will license bakeries after they have been reported to be in a sanitary condition by the Medical Officer of Health, if the House approves of the committee's recommendation. The charge for the license is a nominal one of \$1, and is intended to protect the lives of citizens, and not as a means of increasing the revenue.

The committee recommended Dr. Musgrove's bill to the House, amending the Municipal Act, to assess foreigners \$5 poll tax. He explained that at present many foreigners residing in townships and small places do not pay any tax, although making good wages.