

# SCHOOL BOARD HELD SUPREME

Request of Civic Deputation  
Was Refused by Sir  
William Hearst

## MAYOR WAS INDIGNANT

Bill for Control of Board of Edu-  
cation Finance Will Not Go  
Before Committee.

Mayor Church and members of the Board of Control were "turned down cold" by the Prime Minister, Sir William Hearst, yesterday when they waited on the Ontario Cabinet and asked that the City Council be given power to control the expenditures of the Board of Education.

"I am going to tell the deputation frankly," said Sir William Hearst, "that I am not going to allow the bill making provision for this to go to the committee. Even if it did go to a committee I doubt if it would ever come back to the Legislature." The Prime Minister then produced a clipping from an evening paper in which Mayor Church was quoted as saying that if the Toronto bill did not pass the Toronto members of the Legislature would be held responsible. "I want to say now," declared the Prime Minister warmly, "that the Toronto members will not take the responsibility; for I shall take the responsibility of killing the bill myself."

### Mayor Makes Rejoinder.

"Then you can give the Board of Education power to collect its own taxes," retorted Mayor Church, "because I don't propose to be responsible for its taxes if the city has no control over its expenditures."

"The Board of Education has that power now," observed Mr. Mark Irish.

His Worship then thanked the Prime Minister for the courteous hearing the Cabinet had given, but as soon as he left the room he said, "we have been kicked downstairs."

The Mayor told the Cabinet that the City Council at present were merely tax collectors for the Board of Education.

Controller McBride said the School Board had defied the City Council and the school estimates this year were \$700,000 higher than ever before.

Controller Maguire said the city couldn't stand this increased expenditure in war time.

### Claims of Extravagance.

Mr. Mark Irish handed out a lot of advice as to how the city should be run and added that while the Board of Education had been extravagant the City Council had been three times so. He claimed that while Board of Education expenditures had increased by 92 per cent. in ten years, the City Council expenditures had increased by 300 per cent.

The Prime Minister said that if the Toronto bill were allowed to pass it meant handing over the Board of Education to the control of the City Council. He said there would be no object in retaining the Board of Education in Toronto if the bill became law. The policy of the bill was a vital departure from the traditional policy of the Province for over half a century. If the School Trustees were extravagant the electors could defeat them at the next election.

# TORONTO BILLS ARE BUMPED

Legislature Refuses to Re-  
cognize Demands of City  
Council

City of Toronto bills had a rough passage before the Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday. But two minor clauses of the bill to amend the Public Health Act were passed, these being to increase the interest from 5 to 6 per cent. on money advanced to citizens for the installation of plumbing, and raising the maximum fine from \$20 to \$500 for nuisances committed by abattoirs.

Members of the committee thought the demand of the City Council to control the estimates of the Board of Health was unjustified and unnecessary. Hon. Thomas Crawford was the only member of the committee who voted in favor of the clause when the vote was taken. Hon. Mr. McPherson said the clause would override what has been the law of the land for 60 years.

### Controller McBride's Effort.

Controller McBride endeavored to have the members of the committee see the situation from the Council's standpoint, but to no avail. The members were determined that the Board of Health knew more about managing the city's health affairs than did the members of the City Council.

Likewise the clause which sought to transfer from the Provincial to the Local Board of Health powers to act with respect to the abatement of nuisances was defeated.

The committee reported in favor of a bill to amend the Public Schools Act, which provided that the right of voting for public school trustees and members of Board of Education shall be confined to public school supporters entitled to vote at municipal elections.

A bill introduced by Mr. G. H. Gooderham for the city of Toronto to amend the Assessment Act was referred to the special committee that is to sit during recess.

A bill to amend the Highways Improvement Act was referred back to the special committee, as the liability of small municipalities in case of accidents when traffic is diverted by reason of the main highway being closed was not settled.

## SEEKS RETURN OF CORRESPONDENCE

PAPERS IN CONNECTION WITH  
FORD CITY TROUBLE WANTED  
BY RUSSELL, M.P.P.

In the Legislature on Tuesday next Mr. D. Racine of Russell will make a motion for a return to be brought down in the House of all communications and correspondence between the Attorney-General, J. H. Rodd, Crown Attorney for the County of Essex, Dr. St. Pierre and H. C. Maisonville of Windsor, Ont., in the matter of an alleged conspiracy on the part of the said J. H. Rodd against the said St. Pierre and Maisonville in connection with the trouble which occurred at Ford City, Ont., on or about the 8th day of September, 1917, and which led to the arrest of the said St. Pierre.