

CANDIDATE MUST HOLD PROPERTY

Effort to Abolish Qualifica- tions for Municipal Office Defeated

Efforts to have property qualifications for candidates for municipal office removed were defeated by the Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday. The committee proved a veritable stone wall, and bills introduced in the Legislature by Dr. Musgrove of Niagara Falls and Mr. J. H. Ham of South Brant, seeking to bring about this change in the statutes, were killed by overwhelming majorities.

In supporting his bill Mr. Ham said that workingmen are bound to have a place in the councils of their municipalities, and as the law now stands they sometimes have to depend on support from others higher up. Consequently the field from which to choose Labor representatives is limited. He believed it would be in the interest of the municipalities to have the law passed.

Dr. Musgrove said that the demand for the reform comes largely from the Labor section of the community. There are three well-defined classes in the community today: Labor, Radical Socialists and returned soldiers. At present some members when elected to Councils have to take an oath which is not in line with their own conscience.

No Demand for Change.

Mr. Sam Carter of South Wellington said that at present there is a \$400 assessment qualification for those voting for members of Council, whereas this has not been needed up to this time by voters for members of Boards of Education. He declared that the School Boards have been giving better service than the Councils.

Declaring that there is no demand from the rural parts of the Province for the change, Mr. Thomas Marshall of Lincoln said he was opposed to the amendment. He thought it was a doubtful compliment to the returned soldiers and that it put them in the class of the improvident. Unless the soldiers ask for it he didn't think the act should be amended.

SAY ACCOUNT IS EXCESSIVE

Exception Taken in Commit- tee to Charges of Adver- tising Agency

For preparing advertising matter in connection with the increased production campaign last year, McConnell & Ferguson of London, Ont., got \$18,369 from the Ontario Government. Some Liberal members of the Legislature think the amount excessive and the accounts are to be scrutinized by the Public Accounts Committee. Sam Clarke (West Northumberland) said yesterday morning, at the first sitting of the committee, that he understood the London firm were simply "advertising brokers," and that while they got this large sum, "some other poor devils got nothing." The Provincial Treasurer, Hon. T. W. McGarry, stated that the matter had been discussed at a meeting held earlier in the day, and steps had been taken to avoid a repetition of the business.

The Liberal members of the committee also asked for figures respecting the annual upkeep cost of Government House, and the Provincial Treasurer promised to have Mr. Fairbairn, Deputy Minister of Public Works, on hand next Wednesday morning to supply the information.

Another item to be investigated is the payment to John M. Lyle, architect, for services and travelling expenses in connection with the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph, while the purchase of live stock for resale to the settlers of Northern Ontario will also be probed.

Mr. Charles McCrea, M.P.P. for Sudbury, was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the committee.