

WOULD AMEND MARRIAGE ACT

Drastic Changes Proposed to Bar Undesirables From Wedding

A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Mr. Proudfoot Scores Government for Too Much Legislation of Licut.-Governor in Council.

In the Legislature yesterday Dr. Forbes Godfrey (West York) introduced a bill which, if adopted by the House, would mean a drastic change in the marriage laws of the Province. His bill, which is an amendment to the Marriage Act, would provide that both contracting parties "must obtain a certificate from a properly qualified medical practitioner registered in the Province of Ontario, stating that neither party to the contract is an idiot, imbecile, epileptic, feeble-minded, lunatic, sexual pervert, drug habitue, habitual criminal, habitual vagrant and not suffering from venereal disease, tuberculosis or cancer." The bill was given its first reading.

Occasion was taken by the Opposition Leader, Mr. William Proudfoot, to criticize the growing practise on the part of the Government of leaving important regulations to be passed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, when the bill for the protection of insectivorous birds was given second reading. Hon. Mr. Macdarmid explained that it was estimated the annual loss by insects destroying crops in Canada was \$125,000,000. The matter was considered of sufficient importance for the United States and Great Britain to enter into a treaty arrangement for the protection of these birds, and the bill was merely carrying out the terms of the treaty. He said that the bill permitted the department to make the necessary regulations.

Wants Copies of Regulations.

"I think we have too much legislation of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council," declared Mr. Proudfoot. "It might be better for the House and for the country if we knew something of the legislation that we are going to pass. We pass clauses of this kind and then certain regulations become law. We know nothing about it unless we happen to see one of the regulations." He suggested that copies of the regulations should be sent to members of the House.

Mr. Macdarmid replied that the regulations when adopted are included in the pamphlet that is sent out containing the game and fishery laws of the Province.

Forest Fire Protection.

In reply to Mr. Sam. Carter (South Wellington), when a bill to amend the Forest Fire Protection Act was under discussion, the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines said that the plans introduced last year for this work are progressing. Difficulty has been experienced in securing equipment and there is a shortage of labor. As many returned soldiers as possible have been secured, but because of their long camp life they have not all proved a success, the loneliness being more than they could stand. He hoped to make the organization a permanent one. Last year fifty per cent. of the fires were due to railroads, but that cause is being combated with success. The look-out tower, and the telephone, however, are the best

precautions against a fire securing a start.

Superannuation of Teachers.

As acting Minister of Education, Hon. Mr. Ferguson, on the second reading of an act to amend the school laws, said that most of the amendment was to bring the Toronto superannuation fund and the Ottawa superannuation fund into the general fund. Mr. Proudfoot thought that the provision for the increase in inspectors' salaries to \$2,500 a year was a proper one. He would go farther, however, and suggested to the Minister that there should be provision for an annual increase of either \$50 or \$100 until a maximum of \$3,000 a year was reached.

Mr. Sam. Carter believed that the superannuation fund, as at present constituted, mitigates against young women teachers marrying. He felt that whenever they stop teaching they should get back what they have paid into the fund.

Mr. Ferguson replied that such a proceeding would interfere with the actuarial basis of the act.

The System of Elections.

An amendment to the Public Schools Act was introduced by Mr. C. H. Mills (North Waterloo), which would give power to Municipal Councils in cities under 50,000 population to change the method of electing public school trustees from the ward system to that of a general vote of the electors. Mr. Mills also introduced a bill to enable City Councils to replace members of Highway Commissions removing from the county who do not resign before the expiration of the five years' term for which they are appointed.

Mr. Proudfoot introduced an amendment to the Truancy Act, placing truant officers under the jurisdiction of school trustees, and providing that women may act in the capacity of truant officers.

Amendments to Highway Bill.

The Toronto-Hamilton Highway Bill was reported with several amendments after the member for West York, Dr. Forbes Godfrey, had made an appeal for relief of property-owners in his riding, who consider they have to pay more than their share of the cost. Dr. Godfrey paid tribute to the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. George H. Gooderham. The Prime Minister replied that if any ratepayers were suffering they would have the consideration of the Government.

In the absence of the Speaker, Dr. David Jamieson, Hon. Thomas Crawford acted as Speaker yesterday.