

NEW ELECTION ACT INTRODUCED

Hon. I. B. Lucas Deals With
Legislation to Supersede
Present Laws

GOVT. HOUSE EXPENSES

Exception Taken by Opposition to
Amounts Required for Upkeep of
Lieut.-Governor's Residence.

Legislation superseding existing election laws, and intended primarily to be used in by-elections to fill the vacant seats in the Legislature, but which might be used should a general election occur, was introduced in the House last night by Hon. I. B. Lucas. The act provides that where an election is necessary nominations shall take place eight weeks before election day. If it is found after the candidates are nominated that an election is necessary, the duty of preparing the necessary voters' lists is placed upon the returning officer. This official may direct such persons as he may require to prepare the lists as quickly as possible.

The returning officer will be obliged to post typewritten copies of the voters' lists with the Clerks of the several municipalities in the riding. In the rural districts the assessment lists would be used as a basis, and the new names of voters would be prepared under the direction of the returning officer. Opportunity would then be given for appeals to be entered, and some member of the Board of Revision would go to the municipality and hear any appeals before names could either be added or struck off the lists. Hon. Mr. Lucas pointed out that in this way no expense would be incurred in preparing the lists if, after nomination day, it was found an election was not necessary. The bill also provides that each nomination paper shall bear 100 names as proof that the candidate is in earnest. By posting only typewritten lists the cost of having lists printed is done away with.

Votes for Women.

Mr. William Proudfoot, the Opposition Leader, presumed the act would give women the right to vote. He fancied the act would not come into force until a proclamation was issued.

Sir William Hearst replied that women now have the right to vote, and it is only necessary to create the machinery, and that a proclamation was not necessary.

"Will it touch the soldiers' vote?" asked Mr. Allan Studholme of East Hamilton.

Mr. Lucas replied that there was no authority for taking an overseas soldier vote. If a soldier is training in Ontario, he will be allowed to vote. He said that, under the General Election Act, it would have required three months to prepare the lists.

Public Health Act.

An amendment to the Public Health Act was introduced by Hon. W. D. McPherson, providing that every district officer of health would be paid such salary as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may fix, together with travelling expenses. It also provides that every person in a house in which a communicable disease exists, or who enters during the period of quarantine, shall be deemed exposed to the disease. The bill also sets out that it shall be the duty of every physician, medical officer of health, superintendent of hospitals, nurse, midwife, and everyone in charge of maternity hospitals, every

householder, and everyone in charge of a child, to see that such requirements as may be prescribed by the act or by regulations are complied with in respect to ophthalmia, trachoma, inflammation of the eyes, or other communicable diseases of the eye, of new-born babies.

Upkeep of Government House.

The cost for the upkeep of Government House brought forth scathing criticism from Opposition members, when the main estimates were under discussion last night. The estimates provide for \$22,750 for this purpose. This does not include the cost of the staff. Mr. Sam Clarke (West Northumberland) referred to Government House as a "mighty expensive luxury or necessity." People are asked to conserve food supplies and fuel, and "at headquarters we have the most extravagant proposition that it is possible to imagine.

When we started to build Government House we made one of the mistakes of our life. The interior and furnishings I think would bring a lot of curious people to see it. During war time we should get smaller quarters for the Lieutenant-Governor. If we closed Government House and kept it as a curio and charged an admission fee we could make money."

Lieutenant-Governor in a Hotel.

"There is an expression 'a thing of beauty and a joy forever,'" said Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce), "but this is not a thing of beauty, and it is an expense forever." He suggested that in these war times economy could be practised by having the Lieutenant-Governor live in a good hotel. "There is a feeling in the Province that we are doing little to stop this," he declared.

Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) also voiced his disapproval of the expenditure, which, he said, is extreme. He wanted one of the amounts for assistant gardeners and firemen struck out.

Hon. Mr. Macdiarmid replied that it costs every person more to live now, and that while the cost for maintaining Government House last year was \$28,559, the building was new and the grounds incomplete. He pointed out that when Beardmore house was used as Government House in 1914 it cost \$19,847.

When the House went into committee on the estimates in the afternoon, Mr. J. A. Pinard (East Ottawa) again brought up the objections voiced the previous evening by the French-Canadian members to the settlers' regulations. He quoted Prof. Wrong, at a recent address, to the effect that in England there had been a recommendation that French should be taught in all schools in England. He didn't think the agreement should be forced on new settlers. If the Minister wishes greater production he didn't think the settlers' regulations would help matters any.

Kaiser Rule in Toronto.

Mr. William McDonald, when the Education Department estimates came up, said that that is the weak spot of the Government. Authority is too centralized, and there is a Kaiser ruling here in Toronto.

Ladies in the gallery applauded this statement, and the Prime Minister angrily asked Mr. A. E. Donovan, who was presiding, to announce that the galleries would be cleared if there was a recurrence of the applause.

Mr. McDonald also objected to the treatment of the urban public schools, and declared they were put on a wrong basis. Instead of getting grants as high schools and rural schools did, by keeping up the equipment and the appearance of their buildings, they got it just for the certificates the teachers held and their length of service.

To Mr. Mageau the Provincial Secretary said there are 250 prisoners at Burwash, but he didn't agree with the member that they should go in for lumbering and put the timber on the market. The timber was used for Provincial institutions now, and there was none to spare.

Fishing Business.

Mr. Proudfoot said that he was