

REDUCE DEBATE TO A MINIMUM

Business in Legislature Being Transacted With Extra Despatch

SESSION ENDS THIS WEEK

Second Reading for Bill to Remedy Factory Conditions of Women and Child Workers.

Now that the Government has expressed its intention of making this the last week of the present session of the Legislature, the House yesterday afternoon settled down to business in earnest. Rapid strides were made in clearing the order paper of measures that have been there for the last month. Bill after bill was passed with the minimum of debate. Consequently, no session was necessary last night, although it is expected the House will meet each of the remaining evenings this week. Several bills which Mr. William Proudfoot, the Opposition Leader, introduced, with the object of giving farmers' daughters the right to vote at municipal elections, and amendments to the Assessment Act, which was affected by these measures, were withdrawn, and they will be taken by a special committee after the House progresses.

Sir William Hearst introduced a bill to enable railway employees to vote at municipal elections before polling day. He said that it had been the Government's intention to deal with such things, as they affect Provincial elections, but in view of the extension of the Legislature it was thought unwise to do so at this time. The bill provides that municipalities may open ballot boxes for the receiving of votes from railway employees three days before the election.

Purchasing Agent's Scope.

Hon. Mr. McGarry amended, on its third reading, the bill providing for the appointment of a general purchasing agent, so as to enlarge the scope of the work of this officer, the idea being to give him authority to purchase all supplies. Hon. Mr. Lucas also amended his bill providing for better regulation of the public service. He explained that the purpose of the amendment was that the officer in charge of the administration of the act would appoint clerks and employees of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, but not the Chairman, who is a judicial officer.

Amend Succession Duty Act.

The House approved of the Succession Duty Act being amended, providing that "succession duty be not claimed on gifts made absolutely by a deceased person to his father, mother, child, son-in-law or daughter-in-law more than three years before his death, not exceeding the value or amount of \$20,000 in the aggregate, without any regard to any larger amount that may also be given at any time." The amendment also provides that the rates of succession duty payable by a beneficiary who is a stranger in blood to a deceased person whose estate is dutiable be at the rate of fifteen per cent., where the net estate exceeds \$50,000 and does not exceed \$200,000, and at the rate of twenty per cent. where it exceeds \$200,000.

To provide further facilities for carrying on the work at the Connaught Laboratories, which were established by Col. A. E. Gooderham a few years ago, and which are under the supervision of the University of Toronto, the Government introduced a motion setting aside the sum of \$3,750 to be paid annually for a period not exceeding ten years. Hon. Mr. McGarry said that the cost of the laboratories was \$75,000, and

it was desirable to add further facilities as well as to have a professor on hand at all times.

Six Millions for Commissions.

Approval was given to a motion made by Hon. Mr. McGarry authorizing the Government to raise by way of a loan \$6,000,000 for works carried on by Commissions for the Province. The largest amount, the Provincial Treasurer said, was required by the Hydro-electric Power Commission.

Speaking briefly on the bill, which he introduced last week, respecting the cultivation of vacant land, Sir William Hearst said there was no intention of giving compensation by way of tax allowance to people whose land was cultivated by municipal corporations. The bill provides that municipalities may by by-law and under proper conditions cultivate vacant land, the idea being to bring under cultivation land held by speculators.

To Remedy Factory Conditions.

Second reading was given a bill which provides for the remedying of conditions in factories and offices under which women and children are called upon to work. Notwithstanding any provision that has existed in the past to allow children under fourteen years of age to work in canning factories, this bill provides that in future no children under the school age shall work in any factory. In the past, too, women have been allowed to work in canning factories until late at night during the rush season. The bill provides that during the months of July, August, September and October no woman shall work later than 6.30 in the afternoon in this kind of factory.

Another provision of the bill is that where 35 or more females are employed in a factory or shop the employer shall provide suitable dressing and eating rooms, and shall employ a suitable person as matron. Hon. Mr. Macdiarmid explained that in view of the present abnormal conditions the bill did not deal with the hours of labor, generally, of women. However, conditions are rapidly righting themselves, and men who have given thought to the matter have decided that greater efficiency results from the eight-hour day. In Toronto at present 88 per cent. of the women employed in factories work 45 hours or less a week; 7 per cent. work 50 hours a week or less; 3 per cent. work 54 hours a week or less; 3.1 per cent. work 58 hours a week or less, and only .81 per cent. work 60 hours per week.

Extending Factory Inspection.

The act also provides that the inspection of factories is extended to all those where power of any kind is used, and no matter how many persons are employed. Only factories employing five or more persons were previously inspected. The loophole in the inspection of boilers is also closed by the bill. In the past the boilers have only been inspected by the department up until the time they were installed, and then they were lost track of until extensive repairs were necessary. The amendment says that no person shall inspect a boiler except he has been authorized to do so by the Superintendent of the Trades and Labor Branch to do so. Stationary engineers in charge of boilers, with certain qualifications, were previously allowed to make the inspection.

In answer to Mr. Proudfoot on the second reading of the bill for the better development and preservation of the fuel resources of the Province, Hon. Mr. Ferguson said that it depended on conditions that may arise whether or not the Government will have to appoint a Fuel Controller, as well as the way in which the authority is divided between the Dominion and Provincial Governments. No person in the department at present has sufficient time to devote to the work, and if the resources are to be developed it will require all the time of one man.

Wants Aggressive Fuel Policy.

Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) thought the Government should put more ginger into its plans for the securing of fuel for next winter.

The Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines replied that it is easier for the municipalities to create an organization to secure the wood for themselves than it is for the depart-