

clause in the Election Act providing that enumerators should be appointed by the returning officer of the riding to prepare the voters' lists. Their complaints failed to have any effect on the Government as no changes were made, and an amendment introduced by Mr. Hartley Dewart of Southwest Toronto, to alter the objectionable clause, was lost on division. As the new law stands, enumerators will be appointed by the returning officer to prepare the voters' lists. The Opposition members asked that the enumerators be appointed by the Registry Board, as was provided in the act passed at the last session.

Mr. Dewart led the attack on the Government when the bill was discussed in committee, and for almost two hours he protested against that clause of the bill, being supported by Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex), Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton), Mr. J. H. Ham (South Erant), D. Racine (Russell), and Mr. Z. Mageau (Sturgeon Falls). Mr. Dewart protested that nomination day being held eight weeks prior to the day of polling would give too much time for turmoil. He said it was a legal innovation. In the past the practise has been to hold the election as soon after nomination day as possible.

Purpose Explained.

Hon. Mr. Lucas explained that the purpose of the eight weeks between nomination day and election day was in the hope that no poll would be necessary. That being the case, no lists would have to be prepared. If an election should be found necessary the eight weeks would give sufficient time for the preparation of the lists. The Attorney-General told Mr. Proudfoot that while the bill would cover a general election should one be held, many changes would be necessary before the act could properly be used in so general a way.

The Attorney-General said that neither side wanted an election. By having the returning officer appoint the enumerators ten days could be saved, and the lists could be completed in five or ten days and sent to the Registration Board before the board could have set up the machinery to have the electors placed on the lists.

Mr. Dewart Not Satisfied.

Mr. Dewart was not satisfied with the explanations of the Attorney-General. He said the Registry Board was provided under the new bill to sit in appeal. They could just as well appoint the enumerators and the public would have greater confidence in them.

Mr. J. C. Elliott said the discussion was getting on to dangerous ground. He wanted to know what was the weakness in the act of the last session that it had to be changed at this time.

Sir William Hearst said there was no thought of an election being held and he believed that both sides of the House were against any being held. He personally had nothing to do with preparing the act. It was the product of the law officers of the Government after they had been told to prepare machinery for the holding of by-elections.

SHORT SESSION IS CONCLUDED

Legislature Finishes Business and Brings Very Quiet Period to a Close

Another business session of the Ontario Legislature is over. The House completed its sessional business a few minutes before eleven o'clock last night, and, with the singing of the National Anthem and the verse "God Save Our Splendid Men," at the suggestion of Mr. Wm. McDonald (North Bruce), adjourned until next Tuesday, when the Lieutenant-Governor will officially prorogue the House. In order to wind up the business yesterday the House met at 11 o'clock in the morning and sat until 1.15. Then it adjourned until 3 o'clock. Reassembling at that hour it sat continuously until 11 o'clock, without rising for dinner.

While this has not been the shortest session of the Legislature in the last 50 years, it has no doubt been one of the tamest in history. There was more warm debate in the last two days than during all the rest of the session. The truce that has existed since the first week has held remarkably well, but the continual debate had reached a stage where more fireworks might have developed had the session lasted another week or two.

Objects to Certain Indemnities.

In the dying minutes the Southwest Toronto member, Mr. Hartley Dewart, started a warm debate when he introduced an amendment to a motion brought in by the Provincial Treasurer not to pay the sessional indemnity to three members who had attended none or very few sessions of the House unless they could produce good reason for their absence. The members mentioned by Mr. Dewart were: Hon. W. J. Hanna, West Lambton; G. W. Sulman, West Kent, and A. H. Musgrove, North Huron.

Hon. Mr. McGarry dealt with the cases of the three men separately. He said that Mr. Musgrove had resigned his seat a month ago when he had been appointed Postmaster for Wingham. He would therefore only be allowed indemnity for the days he spent in the House. The Minister explained that no member was allowed his indemnity if he was not present during the session unless he was serving overseas, or had a doctor's certificate that he was in ill-health. He understood that Mr. Sulman was ill and that it was necessary for him to go South during the winter months. The Provincial Treasurer didn't think Mr. Hanna would apply for his indemnity. But he thought that any man who had given the Province 13 or 14 years' good service, as did Mr. Hanna, should not be judged before the former Food Controller had opportunity to explain his action.

The amendment was defeated and the resolution passed.

Major Hartt (Simcoe) is to be allowed mileage from France.

Truant Officers.

The Government refused to attach its O.K. to the bill sponsored by Mr. Proudfoot to give school trustees authority to appoint truant officers, and making it possible for women to be appointed to such positions. Consequently the bill was lost on division. At present truant officers are appointed by the Police Commission. Mr. Proudfoot declared that the present system is lacking in effectiveness. Last year 12,000 children were reported as truants, and 7,000 of the number were from one city.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson, Acting Minister of Education, said the truant question was one of the troubles at the root of the whole system. The department was considering the whole matter carefully, and it was not yet thoroughly conversant with the situation. For that reason no legislation had been introduced at