

Act. It had been a big step forward for the Province, and the change had been beneficial to the whole Province. It would be unworthy to look back to the former days prior to the passing of the act, and if it were repealed Ontario would be the dumping-ground of all the undesirable liquor in the United States and all the undesirables who would want to emigrate to this Province. He was glad the responsibility for the continuance of the law rested with the men and the women of Ontario.

Mr. Hilliard spoke at some length on the need for cheap hydro power in Eastern Ontario. While he was glad the western part of the Province was getting it, it behooved both Provincial and Dominion Governments to utilize the undeveloped power of the St. Lawrence.

Hon. F. G. Macdormid, Minister of Public Works, introduced a bill to create a Department of Labor.

Premier Hearst Declares No Attempt to Stifle Discussion, but Wants Measure Hurried Through

When the Legislature met yesterday for its first working session the Government Housing Bill was introduced by the Prime Minister and given its first reading. Sir William briefly explained the details of the measure, and explained that he desired it to be put through the various stages as soon as possible and given Royal assent. It is expected that the bill will be given its second reading this afternoon.

It was evident that the Prime Minister had heard that the Opposition intended that the measure should be properly considered by the House, and not rushed through unduly, for he was careful to say that there was no intention to stifle discussion on the measure, but on the other hand, give every opportunity to the members to consider it. Sir William said that it was important that the bill should become law as soon as possible, however, as there was a very keen demand for houses in many centres of the Province, and there was unemployment which it was hoped could be alleviated by the building of homes.

Reviews Housing Condition.

Sir William reviewed the steps leading to the Housing Bill being formulated. The housing situation had been brought to the attention of the Government last spring, and a Housing Committee was appointed. A loan of \$2,000,000 was offered at 5 per cent. by the Province to municipalities, provided the latter put up 25 per cent. of the amount loaned to builders. Subsequently the Dominion Government set aside \$25,000,000 for the purpose, and of this sum about \$8,500,000 was available for Ontario. Should a larger amount be required it would likely be forthcoming.

Apparently, having in mind the appointment of a Toronto Housing Commission by the city, and the desire to conform with the municipality's wishes, the Premier explained that the bill permitted of a Commission of five being appointed, who were not members of the Council, in places over 100,000. The former intention was that the head of the municipality in all places should be a member of the Commission, which must of necessity be appointed.

Give Municipalities Latitude.

The Prime Minister further explained that no profit was to be made by the municipalities in loaning the money to the individual or to the housing companies. "It is the intention to give the municipalities the widest latitude in carrying out the provisions of the act," he said. "While plans will be supplied municipalities, it is not the intention to bind them down to any particular plans or methods, but all building schemes will have to be approved by the Municipal Director. That is necessary so that the Province may know that the money which is loaned is properly expended, and that the housing schemes are modern and sanitary.

It was estimated, Sir William said, that a \$3,000 home would cost the purchaser \$20 a month if pay-

ment were spread over a period of 20 years. Sudbury was the first place to pass the necessary by-law to comply with the act. Windsor and Sandwich had since taken similar action. About twenty municipalities had intimated their intention of coming under the act, and about twenty more were considering the matter. It was expected that sixty municipalities would this year avail themselves of the machinery provided under the act.

No Expense in Foreclosing.

Replying to Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce), Sir William said that in case of default of payment there would be no expense in foreclosing the agreement. In answer to a question of Mr. William Proudfoot, the Opposition Leader, the Prime Minister said that any cost to the Province of carrying out the act would be paid by the Government out of general funds. It would not be charged to the borrower. The same would apply to the municipality. It would have to meet any expense without charging the cost to the borrower of money.

Paving the way for the administration of the act, Sir William introduced another bill to amend the Bureau of Municipal Affairs Act. The amendment will permit of the appointment of Mr. J. A. Ellis to the position of Director of Municipal Affairs. He is now a member of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. It was intimated when Mr. Ellis was appointed to that position that he would be made Director subsequently. He had charge of the preliminary details in connection with the Act to Provide for the Erection of Dwelling Houses.

ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT PULPWOOD

Mr. Proudfoot Wants to Know if Mr. Carrick is Purchaser

Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, the Opposition Leader, has placed an inquiry on the order paper in which he wants to know whether or not the Government disposed of certain pulpwood limits to a former member, Mr. J. J. Carrick of Port Arthur. The limits referred to are on the Pic River and Black Sturgeon River districts in Thunder Bay, and Mr. Proudfoot is asking whether, by license or sale, they were disposed of to Mr. Carrick.

Following up this question, Mr. Proudfoot desires to know if the conditions imposed by the terms of sale have been complied with and whether or not any returns have been made by Mr. Carrick to the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines in regard to the pulpwood cut.