

OBJECTS TO DUAL OFFICE

Railway Board Official Should Not be Municipal Director

MR. PROUDFOOT'S STAND

Housing Bill Out of Commit- tee With Some Alter- ations

Strong protest was made in the Legislature yesterday by Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, the Opposition Leader, against one man holding the dual position of Director of Municipal Affairs, having in charge the administration of the Government housing scheme, and at the same time being a member of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. The objection was overruled by the Government, and the bill to amend the Bureau of Municipal Affairs Act, and the bill to provide for the erection of dwelling houses, with amendments, were passed through the committee stage, and reported as ready for third reading next week.

Mr. Proudfoot said that he felt the position of a member of the Railway Board was sufficiently important for one man, without having him also occupy another position, as it was proposed to have Mr. J. A. Ellis do. He objected also to paying the two salaries, \$4,000 as a member of the Railway Board, and whatever else was fixed by the Government for the other position. "I don't believe it is in the public interest that he should be allowed to draw two salaries," declared Mr. Proudfoot.

Favors Co-ordinating Departments.

Sir William Hearst said that the Government thought it desirable that the work of the Railway and Municipal Board should be co-ordinated with the work of the Municipal Bureau. If two men were appointed the separate salaries would be larger, and while some assistants would be needed to help Mr. Ellis, they could be secured at a lower salary than what would have to be paid to a director.

Although the Housing Bill was gone over in committee earlier in the week, it was considered again yesterday, and three or four important changes, together with half a dozen technical amendments, were made. The Government accepted the suggestion of Mr. Proudfoot that instead of having the members of a commission in cities retiring after one and two years' service, they be appointed for five years, one to retire each year. This, it was pointed out, would give continuity in the management.

May Build for Their Sons.

Sir William Hearst said that he did not think it was necessary that the Government should go as far as Mr. Proudfoot suggested and allow farmers to borrow money to build houses for themselves as well as for their help. He did go half-way, however, and agree to allow farmers to borrow the money with which to erect houses for their sons.

Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) interrupted to say that any farmer could easily get around that by erecting a house for the son, and then move into it himself.

The Prime Minister nodded agreement.

Another clause in the act which had been pointed out by Mr. Proudfoot previously as being too drastic

was amended in committee. Instead of allowing a commission or a company to acquire by purchase or enter on and expropriate land, as previously intended, the approval of the director must now first be secured.

Commission's "Power to Cancel."

The objections raised by Mr. Studholme and Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) that the act did not sufficiently protect the working-man in case he defaulted his payments, was taken cognizance of by the Government. Instead of allowing a commission or company to have the power of "cancellation" of an agreement on default of payment for three months, the words "power to cancel" were substituted.

The Prime Minister told Mr. Carter that in case a man did default he would be able to get his equity, providing there was any.

Mr. Dewart asked if it might not be possible to utilize the houses at Leaside Camp which were being vacated, at least temporarily, for returned soldiers. Sir William said that he had not heard the houses were being left vacant, but promised to make inquiries.

COURT INQUIRY NOT DECIDED

Waiting Till Session is Over, Government Says, on Juvenile Court Probe

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Whether or not the Government will order an investigation into the Toronto Juvenile Court, as requested unanimously by the City Council, has not been decided. Yesterday numerous questions asked by Opposition members in the Legislature were answered by the Government, and replying to an inquiry of Mr. Hartley Dewart (Southwest Toronto), Hon. I. B. Lucas stated that the Government would make no decision until after the session. Mr. Lucas said that representations both for and against an investigation had been received by his department. After the Legislature prorogues societies and persons interested would be consulted by the Government to consider if it were desirable to hold a public inquiry, and if so what should be its scope.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson replied to certain questions asked by Mr. William Proudfoot, the Opposition Leader, as to whether the Government had disposed of certain pulpwood limits on the Pic River and Black Sturgeon River districts in the District of Thunder Bay. Mr. Ferguson said that the Pic River pulp limit was sold by tender to J. J. Carrick on December 1, 1916. The Black Sturgeon pulp limit was sold by tender to S. A. Marks on February 1, 1917, but was subsequently transferred to Mr. Carrick. The plant to be erected was dependent, the Minister said, upon power development at Nipigon. However, on account of war conditions this development was deferred on the work in connection with power and industrial work. For that reason no cutting operations had been carried on and no returns had been made to the Government.

While the Government has not yet appointed a general purchasing agent as provided for at the last session, Hon. T. W. McGarry, replying to Mr. Proudfoot, said that numerous applications were being considered and the position would be filled shortly.

Work of Soldiers' Aid.

Replying to Mr. C. M. Bowman (West Bruce), Hon. W. D. McPherson said that the Soldiers' Aid Com-