

ESSEX BORDER UTILITIES COM.

Bill to Extend Its Duties Reported to Ontario Legislature

HAMILTON CITY BILL

Having as its purpose the extension of the duties of the Essex Border Utilities Commission, a bill which was introduced in the House by Mr. S. Ducharme was favorably reported by the Private Bills Committee. Several years ago this Commission was formed to construct certain works within the municipalities of Windsor, Walkerville, Sandwich, Ford City, Ojibway, and the townships of Sandwich East and Sandwich West. Its duties at the time of organization were to build a joint waterworks system, etc. Under the proposed bill it is the intention to give the Commission authority to proceed with other works, including a joint hospital, and also to do away with the separate Boards of Health, and substituting therefor the Commission as a joint Health Board.

Dr. J. W. S. McCullough, Provincial Officer of Health, approved of the centralization of health administration, but he objected to the Commission assuming the duties of a Health Board. To get around this criticism an amendment is to be drafted by the Law Clerk to provide for the appointment of a separate Board of Health by the Commission. There was some objection raised to some clauses of the bill, it being stated by one representative of Sandwich that it was the thin edge of the wedge which Windsor was utilizing to take in Sandwich.

City of Hamilton Bill.

An amendment which was agreed upon last week by Sir Adam Beck and representatives of the city of Hamilton to the City of Hamilton Bill, was accepted by the committee and the bill was passed on to the House. The new section of the bill provides for the Hydro-electric Power Commission surveying and constructing a railway from a point on the T. H. & B. Railway near Red Hill in Saltfleet township, across Hamilton and Burlington beaches to a point near Burlington Junction on the G.T.R.; also from a point near the junction of the proposed line with the main line of the G.T.R. east of Hamilton, westerly through Saltfleet township and Hamilton to a point near the present line of the T. H. & B. near the Hamilton Cemetery. The Commission also will have authority to construct railway yards, sidings, etc., for the exchange of railway traffic with other railways, and to enter into agreements with other railway companies for running rights.

Under the new clause Hamilton may enter into an agreement with the Commission for the construction, equipment and operation of the said railways and other works on behalf of the corporation. The agreement may provide for the incorporation of the works in any radial system of the Hydro-electric Commission, the latter to reimburse the city for the cost of the construction.

Ottawa Measure Shelved.

Strong hostility was manifested by the members of the committee to a bill to grant certain exemptions from assessment to the Sisters, Adorers of the Precious Blood, of Ottawa. Finally the bill was shelved, the members expressing the opinion that it was a matter for the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board to settle. Promoters of the bill were not present yesterday, and they will be given another opportunity to express their views, but they will have to

make out an overwhelming case before the bill can hope to be reported to the House.

The bill relating to the Canadian National Exhibition Association was favorably reported. Oshawa has a bill before the House to permit it to withdraw from the county. It was debated at length and finally referred to a sub-committee for a report.

START POLICY OF GOOD ROADS

Government to Push Forward Highway Construction Immediately

ASSURANCE BY MINISTER

Mr. Macdiarmid Addresses Associated Boards of Trade

That the Provincial Government would push forward a progressive and aggressive policy of road construction immediately was the assurance given the members of the Ontario Associated Boards of Trade by Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid, Minister of Public Works for the Province of Ontario, at the banquet tendered the visiting delegates by the Toronto Board of Trade in the big dining-room on the twentieth floor of the Royal Bank Building last night.

While the matter of good roads was one of the most vital questions now confronting the Province, said Mr. Macdiarmid, and while it was the intention of his department to undertake a vast number of improvements, the people must have patience, for the work of road construction was not such as could be done out of hand. It was proposed, he said, to carry out a most comprehensive program this year and the years following until the whole Province would be covered by a system of highways that would be second to none on the continent.

Favors Good Roads.

Hon. Mr. Macdiarmid referred to the deputation from Sarnia which had waited on the Government in the afternoon, and, speaking for himself, he stated that his sympathies all lay with their requests, which, generally speaking, were for the construction of a highway between Hamilton and Windsor and between Toronto and Sarnia. While the Minister did not commit himself to any definite statement of what the Government would do with regard to this matter, he intimated that both roads had many strong points to recommend them to serious consideration, adding that inasmuch as the agricultural activities of the country were the real backbone of all prosperity, any outlay that would facilitate transportation between the rural and urban centres would be in the nature of a judicious national investment.

The speaker took a gentle rap at the members of the United Farmers who had opposed the building of speedways, on the ground that they were nothing but playthings for the idle rich. Such opposition, he said, argued an indifferent appreciation of the whole good roads question.

Methods of Finance.

The Government, he said, proposed to do most of the financing of the new road construction, by means of the revenues derived from motor licenses. There were in Ontario 100,000 passenger cars, and 10,000 trucks, the total revenue from