

PROTEST MADE BY LIBERALS

Too Much Business Done by
Orders in Council is Their
Complaint

THE FACTORY ACT

Bill to Establish Rural Com-
munity Halls Advanced a
Stage

Liberals in the Legislature yesterday objected strongly to the Government doing so much business by order in Council. The Opposition Leader, Mr. Proudfoot, led in the protest, backed by the other Liberals in the House. Mr. Allan Studholme, the East Hamilton Labor member, also joined in the protest. The objection was raised when the amendments to the "Factory, Shop and Office Building Act," a Government measure, were being discussed in committee.

The purpose of the amendments is to extend the present inspection in factories and shops to camps, particularly those on flax farms. Another clause provides that no person shall contract for the employment of, or employ women or girls in any occupation, who, during their employment lodge in a camp, until a permit has been obtained from the department; the act further provides that such permit shall be conditional upon compliance with the regulations which are to be passed by order in Council. These regulations which the Government can pass, are to deal with sanitary conditions in the camps, the season during which employment in a camp may be permitted and the hours of labor of women and girls; the proper supervision of a camp, including physical and moral protection for women and girls employed therein; the location, drainage and arrangement of a camp; provisions for a suitable supply of food and pure water; and washing facilities and bedding.

Give Members a "Say."

"I object to so much being done by order in Council," declared Mr. Proudfoot. He believed the members of the House should have an opportunity of saying what the regulations should be. He doubted if even some of the members of the Executive Council would know what the regulations were when passed, and he was sure the members of the House would not.

Mr. Studholme said that child labor was not dealt with in the matters which could be regulated by order in Council.

Mr. Proudfoot remarked that children are employed right along in the flax fields.

"I know they do that, and they do it in factories too," added Mr.

Studholme. He urged that the Government take the responsibility of saying what age boys and girls should be before being employed in the camps. It was one of the most important bills before the House. A minimum wage clause should be inserted too.

Hon. Mr. Macdiarmid promised that the matter would be taken under consideration. He thought the officers of the department should study conditions before the regulations were passed. Then after being in force one year the regulations could be brought before the Legislature at a future date.

Mr. J. A. Calder (North Oxford) said that most of the flax pulling was done by Indians, who worked in spurts. He thought it would be difficult to regulate their hours of work. The only way would be to forbid child labor in the camps altogether.

The bill was carried.

Community Halls Bill.

The Government bill respecting the establishment of community halls in rural districts was advanced a stage. Hon. Mr. Ferguson introduced two bills, one to amend the "Northern and Northwestern Ontario Development Act," and the other to amend "The Teachers' and Inspectors' Superannuation Act." Both were of a technical nature. An interesting bill, introduced from the Opposition side of the House, was to repeal the "Mortgagors and Purchasers' Relief Act."

A Toronto bill to amend the Municipal Act was sent on to the Municipal Committee. The feature of the bill was to change the hour for nominees for municipal office qualifying from nine o'clock in the evening on the day following the nomination to five o'clock; and when a Sunday or holiday intervenes from nine o'clock until noon of the succeeding day. The other clauses of the bill sent on to the committee included one bringing under the heading of a public garage properties used for storing cars or oil, etc. The only clause to which objection was taken by the Provincial Secretary was one that gives a municipality power to remove obstructions in private property lying immediately adjacent to the highway in such a position as to lead the public to believe it was part of the highway.

Hurdman Withdraws Bill.

Mr. G. C. Hurdman's bill to amend the Public Health Act, which would enable a municipality to establish a public abattoir and enforce the inspection of all meat sold in the municipality, was withdrawn by the Ottawa member at the request of the Provincial Secretary. Mr. McPherson said that he thought it would be inadvisable that any restrictions of the kind provided in the act should be placed on the food supply at the present time. Under the present law there had been no case of hardship experienced, and no disastrous results had been caused.

Mr. Proudfoot has given notice that he will introduce a resolution to provide for preferential voting in elections to the Legislature and municipal councils.

Mr. Z. Mageau (Sturgeon Falls) will inquire of the Government next week on what basis as to price liquor has been sold by the vendors under the O.T.A. to druggists and the general public; also the amount of the license fee which vendors under the O.T.A. have to pay.