

isions. Labor, he said, for seventeen years past had been asking for such a measure as the Minister had introduced.

The House went into committee immediately the House met in the evening on the bill, and it was passed with practically no discussion and given its third reading.

Asks Votes for Farmers' Wives.

When the amendments to the Assessment Act were considered in committee, Mr. H. Hartley Dewart, K.C., urged that there should be a clause giving farmers' wives the right to vote at municipal elections. Mr. Sam Carter backed him in this. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson pointed out that the bill had been decided upon after careful consideration by a special committee, and he did not think the suggestion was of sufficient importance to press so late in the session. However, Mr. Dewart moved an amendment incorporating his request in the clause, but it was lost on division.

Hon. I. B. Lucas moved for the appointment of a select committee of the House to consider the report of the Ontario Insurance Commission, which will sit during recess and make recommendations to the next session as to advisable changes in the Insurance Act.

The expenditures on Government House were again strongly denounced by Liberal members, Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex), Sam Carter (South Wellington), and Sam Clarke (West Northumberland), launching an attack.

An act to amend the Hydro Power Commission Act, providing for superannuation and pensions for employees, as explained last week, was introduced.

MINORS MUST GET CONSENT

Unable to Marry Against the Wishes of Their Parents

After deciding to allow to stand for further consideration a clause which would have made it necessary for applicants for a marriage license to produce a medical certificate of health, the Legal Committee of the Legislature yesterday reported the Marriage Bill introduced by Dr. Forbes Godfrey. The bill, as it was reported, throws additional safeguards around minors who desire to marry. It will now be necessary for a person under eighteen years of age to obtain the written consent of the parents before being married. After receiving this consent the issuer of a license must take evidence in writing of such consent, to which declaration shall be attached a certificate of birth. Where the consent cannot be secured evidence of the fact, together with the birth certificate, must be forwarded to the Registrar-General. Regarding the nullification of marriage provision is made that the courts may proceed to render null and void a marriage contracted contrary to the law where the parties refuse to give evidence.

Two bills brought in by Mr. V. A. Sinclair to permit a judge of the Surrogate Court to accept such evidence in the probate of a will of a soldier or seaman as he may deem advisable in case witnesses are not obtainable, and to permit the will of a soldier or seaman under eighteen years of age to be valid in the courts were reported.

The main features of the Private Detectives Bill introduced by Mr. H. Hartley Dewart, K.C., were allowed to stand. In future these companies will be required to make returns to the Government as all other incorporated companies in Ontario are required to make.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM ASKED

Proudfoot and Dewart in Clash With Premier Hearst

4,000 IN THE SERVICE

Both the Opposition Leader, Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, K.C., and Mr. H. Hartley Dewart, K.C., expressed regret last night in the Legislature, on the consideration of the main estimates, that there had not during the last year been some real measure of Civil Service reform. The member for Southwest Toronto said that he had hoped when the Civil Service Commissioner was appointed last year that there would have been something better to look forward to. He had hoped offices in the Civil Service would be filled without reference to the political predilections of the appointees. Mr. Dewart also expressed regret that the estimates did not contain an increase in salary for many of the employees. There were numbers working for less than they could get if in the employment of the municipality. The report of the Commissioner showed that there were 4,000 persons in the service.

In answer to a question, Sir William Hearst stated that the bonus paid this year was not necessarily to be continued.

"I had thought so far as possible the appointments were to be made without reference to the political party the persons belonged to," said Mr. Proudfoot, "although I won't say there was an undertaking to that effect."

"Appointments have not been made with that object in view," replied the Prime Minister.

Only One Side of Politics.

"My point is that appointments have not been made from both sides of politics," retorted the Opposition Leader.

"Yes, they have," fired back Sir William.

"Well, then, my information is wrong," answered Mr. Proudfoot.

"Then it is wrong, but there may not have been very many," rejoined Sir William.

Mr. Proudfoot went on to say that while the Government had a large majority in the House, the majority in the country at the last election for the Conservatives was not so great. That was another reason his policy of preferential voting should be adopted.

Sir William replied that many of the positions in the service were occupied by Liberals, who were left there when the Conservatives came into power, and who had been promoted without any prejudice against them.