

# ABSENT LEGAL LIGHTS FORCE ADJOURNMENT

## Attorney-General Introduces a Bill for Codification of Laws

### ONTARIO LAGS BEHIND

## Mr. Raney Denies Report About Request That Col. Denison Resign

Adopting the slogan, "No lawyers—no work," the Legislature adjourned yesterday shortly after Hon. W. E. Raney, the Attorney-General, commenced discussion on his bill to codify the laws of partnership. The Attorney-General was the only one of the ten lawyer members of the House present, and his bill dealt directly with legal affairs, although it constitutes a start on one of his promises to make the law simple for the lay mind.

The "lay mind" in the House seemed not to quite appreciate that point, and someone objected to the discussion on the second reading of the bill when the legal members were absent. "Codification" of the laws immediately stopped, and the House adjourned, in the hope that enough legal members will be present next time to resolve the law into simple enough elements for comprehension by the lay mind.

Premier Drury took occasion to deny that there was any motive in introducing the discussion when the lawyers were not present, and expressed regret that such members were too busy to attend the House. The laymen did not display much enthusiasm over "codification," and, as one member suggested, although it looked mild, the lawyers might find something undesirable in it.

#### Behind Other Provinces.

In introducing the second reading of his bill, Hon. W. E. Raney stated that Ontario lagged away behind the other Provinces and the motherland as far as codification was concerned. He explained what an advantage the bill would be to lawyers and laymen alike, and read an extract from a letter received from Mr. Justice Riddell stating that "careful codification was extremely valuable."

Hon. George S. Henry took exception to the Attorney-General's introducing the bill "at this time." "When the chosen legal man of the Government is the only lawyer present the Government asks the House to vote on a matter of such sweeping importance," said the former Minister of Agriculture. "There is not a legal critic present. We are sitting here as laymen. The legislation may be far-reaching. It looks simple to a layman, but perhaps to a lawyer it looks different."

The Premier denied that the Government had brought up the bill because the lawyers were absent. He was sorry that his legal friends were too busy to attend. It was on his suggestion that the Attorney-General had introduced the matter. So that the lawyers might have no cause to complain, he moved that the debate on the bill be adjourned.

#### Denies Published Statement.

On a question of privilege, Mr. Raney rose to say that the statement in an evening newspaper that he had suggested to representatives of

the city that Col. George Taylor Denison, Toronto Police Magistrate, be asked to resign was entirely without foundation.

Two amendments to the Municipal Act proposed by Liberal members have been anticipated by the Government, and Premier Drury informed Major J. C. Tolmie (Windsor) and W. J. Bragg (West Durham), who had prepared the proposed amendments, that Government legislation would cover both points. Major Tolmie withdrew the bill at the second reading. It was to keep the polls open from eight to eight. Mr. Bragg's motion was to make the consent of municipal candidates compulsory, and that they be obliged to sign the nomination papers in the same manner as the mover and seconder of the nomination. Premier Drury said that perhaps not the exact hours suggested by Major Tolmie would be adopted, but that, at any rate, opportunity would be given to discuss the question. Replying to Hon. Thomas Crawford, he said that the hours suggested by the latter, that polls remain open until 7 o'clock at night, were favored by the Government.

#### Bills to Cover Elections.

Hon. Walter Rollo's bill to amend the Municipal Act places the entire family on the same footing as the head of the house in voting, providing they live at home. It means that father, mother, sons and daughters vote in municipal elections on the qualification of the head of the family. The Minister of Public Works, Hon. F. C. Biggs, introduced a bill which covers the objection to the present law raised by Mr. Bragg. He would make it compulsory to have municipal candidates qualify as nominees, as is necessary in Provincial elections. The qualification under this bill must be done not later than the night following nomination day.

Major Kennedy introduced a bill which would give townships the right of placing some restrictions on buildings along roadways.

Hon. Mr. Rollo introduced a bill, promised some time ago, removing the property qualification for municipal office. By it all householders are eligible for public office.

## BIGGS STILL BESIEGED BY ROAD DEPUTATIONS

### BUT MAKES NO PROMISES AS HIGHWAY PROGRAM IS FULL

Hon. F. C. Biggs continues his "deputation record." Two more visited the Minister of Public Works yesterday. One, from St. Catharines and district, asked that a direct road from the Garden City to Niagara Falls be designated a Provincial highway. They were given no promises, as the Provincial highway system program is full. Another deputation from Halton asked the privilege of having a frontage tax for road improvement. This deputation got little encouragement, the Minister stating that he desired to make the roads as free as possible, and regarded frontage taxation as a backward step.