

BILL TO MAKE POLICE BOARD ELECTIVE FAILS

Peterboro' Man's Proposal
Strenuously Opposed in
Meeting of Committee

LABOR FOR MEASURE

The bill proposed by T. Tooms of Peterboro' to have Police Commissioners elected annually met with considerable opposition in the Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday.

Mayor T. L. Church of Toronto and Ald. Gordon of Peterboro' attacked the bill, declaring it would be letting politics into police affairs. All the Toronto members opposed it. The Toronto police force under an appointed Commission, was compared with forces in the United States, where the Commissioners were elected. It was argued that Toronto had a better police force than these cities.

Labor members were almost all in favor of the bill. Mr. Tooms said that the object of his bill was to place in the hands of the City Councils the control of expenditures on police forces, as the present law gives no opportunity to check the expenditure.

J. A. Pinard (East Ottawa) moved that the bill be left over and that a substitute which did not provide for the election of Police Commissioners, but which would enable City Councils to control the expenditures by making it necessary that Police Commissions submit annual estimates, be introduced.

No Demand For Measure.

Mayor Church said if the bill passed it would upset the efficiency of the Toronto police force. There was no demand for the bill, he said.

Ald. Gordon thought the bill dangerous because it gave a chance for the lawless element to get control of the police forces. J. W. Curry (Southeast Toronto) said the bill would be making a "very vicious principle." The Toronto police force was held up as a model.

Hon. Walter Rollo said he would not say he favored the bill, but he did think that Magistrates and Mayors were not the only ones in the communities who were capable of being Police Commissioners.

Dr. H. A. Stevenson's bill to have Town Planning Commissions submit their estimates to the Municipal Councils passed the committee.

Hon. H. C. Nixon, the Chairman, asked the members to withhold any bills not of urgent importance until next session, as there was no desire to riddle the Municipal Act just now.

The bill giving railwaymen three advanced polling days, proposed by P. Heenan of Kenora, passed the committee.

Crawford's Bill Opposed.

Hon. Thos. Crawford's bill, which would give Toronto the power to define areas which would be used entirely for residential purposes permitting doctors, dentists and similar professional men only to carry on practises within the limits, was fought strenuously and the clause giving this right thrown out. Another proposal of the bill which would give cities the power to name areas where people be allowed to erect and live in tents was referred back for minor changes. Gordon Waldron opposed the clause naming residential districts. W. Crockett (South Wentworth) also opposed it, saying too many restrictions on private rights were getting into the Municipal Act. The committee agreed and the clause was rejected.