

# CURRY'S BILL ABOUT RIOTS THROWN OUT

## Toronto Member and Mayor Church in Clash Before Private Bills Committee

Mr. J. W. Curry's bill to provide compensation for losses by riots went down and out before the Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday, but not before the sponsor of the bill and Mayor Church clashed in a warm manner. Mr. Halcrow's bill to provide for daylight baking was also thrown out.

Mayor Church, in speaking to the committee in opposition to the Riot Damages Act, said that some of the Toronto members might spend their time removing causes for riots rather than bringing in such bills as this one was.

### What Did He Mean?

Mr. Curry was on his feet in an instant. What did the Mayor mean, he asked, by saying that Toronto members should spend their time removing causes of riots? Mayor Church replied that city members might see to it that the accounts between the city and Province were straightened out. The city was being soaked, he said. One of the causes of the riot in Toronto, said the Mayor, was that the soldiers were angry at seeing enemy aliens protected safely at home and making big money, while the soldiers had to fight for \$1.10 a day.

Karl Homuth objected to this. One would think, he said, that no one else but returned soldiers ever caused riots at hearing such talk.

### A Word to the Mayor.

Mr. Curry said that the men whose stores were damaged in the Toronto riots were not enemy aliens, but citizens of an allied power. He said that he resented the statement of the Mayor. He, Mr. Curry, had suffered loss in the war and was not the one to protect enemies of the country. "I don't think it lies in the mouth of the Mayor to talk of something else when this bill is up. I tell the Mayor that I will not be a party to taking money from the Province for the city. The city of Toronto is entitled to no more than justice, and the Mayor is not entitled to come here and say that individual members for Toronto should stand by Toronto, right or wrong."

The bill to provide that bakers should be permitted to carry on their operations only during the day time was defeated, some of the committee thinking that the one business of baking should not be singled out for this attention.

### Bills Reported.

Other bills reported included: Permission for municipalities to place memorial windows and tablets in commemoration of officers and men who went to war, and to raise money by debenture without a vote of the people for this purpose; to compel Boards of Police Commissioners to submit their estimates to the Council for approval by March 1 each year; to permit municipal corporations to pass by-laws for granting aid to the Navy League; prohibiting the removal of a City Auditor except on a vote of two-thirds of the Council.

An act to amend the Public Health Act was passed at the instance of the city of Toronto, which defines the owner of premises as the person for the time being receiving the rent of the land or premises, whether on his own account or as agent or trustee.

# ELECTION DISPUTE HEARD IN CAMERA

## Press Are Excluded From Inquiry on Returning Officers' Fees

Judge Coatsworth commenced his hearing in camera of the dispute between the Government and the Returning Officers who conducted the recent election. The latter claim \$40,923 for their services, and the Attorney-General opposes the payment of \$25,924 of this amount.

Mr. T. H. Barton, Returning Officer for Northwest Toronto, stated yesterday that the Returning Officers had four times the amount of work to do in the last election owing to the referendum vote, and the heavy women's vote, polled for the first time. The accounts were not four times those of previous years. The Election Act provided for specific expenses and also for "reasonable fees" for extra work. It is this part which is in dispute.

Mr. R. W. Essery, Returning Officer for Northeast Toronto, stated that the Returning Officers had interviewed the Attorney-General and did nothing without his sanction. They had had to pay time and a half for clerical help quite frequently; three-quarters of the work had to be done at night, and Mr. Essery stated that he had put in twenty-four hours a day quite frequently.

Mr. Dewart asked yesterday in the Legislature if the Attorney-General knew anything about the exclusion of the press from the inquiry at the City Hall. Mr. Raney said that, in that regard, no instructions had been given. Unless there were extraordinary reasons, the Attorney-General said his opinion was that everything ought to be done openly, and that the public ought to have full access to such sessions.

## Revise Laws Relating to Co-operative Companies

An act to amend the Ontario Companies Act that was considered and passed in the Committee of the Whole in the Legislature yesterday drew from Mr. Dewart the opinion that all companies should be compelled to send a financial statement to all the shareholders annually. Any shareholder should have the right to this, he said.

The act under consideration related only to co-operative companies, and Hon. Mr. Doherty said that he thought the laws relating to co-operative companies should be revised, simplified and brought up-to-date. He intimated that such revision would be undertaken in the future.

## Municipal Weigh Scale Tariff Gets Revision

Fees collected at municipal weigh scales were revised by an amendment to the Municipal Act, introduced and passed by the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday. The new scale (maximum) is as follows:

For weighing a load of hay, 25 cents; for weighing slaughtered meat, or grain or other articles exposed for sale, if weighing less than 100 pounds, 2 cents; if weighing more than 100 and less than 1,000 pounds, 5 cents; if weighing more than 1,000 pounds, 10 cents; for weighing live animals other than pigs, sheep or calves, per head, when only one weighed, 10 cents; for each additional animal weighed at the same time, 5 cents; for weighing sheep, pigs or calves, one or two, 10 cents; three, four or five, 15 cents; six or seven, 20 cents; eight, nine or ten, 25 cents; for each additional animal above ten, 2 cents; for measuring a load of wood, 10 cents.