

HOUSE ENDS LONDON BILL ON DIVISION

Notable "Change of Heart"
on Government Side of
the Legislature

THE VOTE IS 44 TO 48

Premier Drury Votes for
Rejection of the
Measure

Most of the members of the Ontario Legislature changed their minds rather quickly between the second and third readings of the London City Bill, which was thrown out on division yesterday. At the second reading Dr. H. A. Stevenson, Labor member for London, was the only man in the House at the time who was opposed to the bill. Yesterday, on the third reading, 48 voted in opposition to the bill, against the 44 who were favorable. Thus the legislation sought in the bill goes over for a year at least.

The great "change of heart" was on the Government side of the House. The bill was reported from the Private Bills Committee, where Dr. Stevenson, who has been the persistent and consistent opponent, fought it almost alone. He objected to the three clauses providing large expenditures for a bridge over the Thames, for storm sewers and for electrical equipment for the railway. His point of objection was that the people had defeated these by-laws, and that the Legislature in approving of them was overriding the will of the people. On second reading he moved a six months' hoist. He was the only member in the House favorable, and the bill went on to its third reading. Previously he declined to move the third reading of the bill, and Hon. W. E. Raney, as Chairman of the Private Bills Committee, refused to move it. Yesterday, when the order was named, J. A. Calder (North Oxford) moved the third reading. Dr. Stevenson objected, wanting his six months' hoist amendment put.

Big Principle Involved.

J. G. Lethbridge (West Middlesex) pointed out that there was a big principle involved as to whether the Legislature should override the vote of the people. There was no further discussion and the House had a division on a private bill. It was thought it would carry easily. However, in the division 44 members voted for the bill to get third reading, and 48 that it should not. The Liberals and Conservatives were practically solid that the bill get third reading, three Liberals, Dr. McAlpine (Brockville), D. Racine (Russell) and N. Asmussen (North Waterloo), being the only ones voting to defeat the bill. On the Government side the following voted for the third reading: Hon. D. Carmichael, Hon. Mr. Nixon, J. M. Webster (Lambton), W. J. Johnson (South Lanark). Premier Drury and the members of the Cabinet, with the exceptions named above, voted for the rejection of the bill.

Up until yesterday there seemed no possibility of the bill being defeated.