

CIVIL SERVICE BILL ADVANCES

Premier's Measure Gets New Name—Dewart Urges Amendments

Premier Drury's Superannuation Bill got through the committee of the House last night without important amendment. It was endowed with a new name, however, that of "The Ontario Public Service Superannuation Act." Mr. Dewart vigorously supported Mr. W. Hay's motion to amend the proposals in the legislation to make special provision for such employees now in the service who had been employed 40 years and over, but the amendment was lost in committee.

Mr. Dewart's proposals, embodied in the Hay amendment, were to divide old employees into three classes—30 years' service and over, 40 years' service and over, and 50 years' service and over. He also proposed a \$1,000 minimum. The first class he would have retire on three-fifths of their salaries, the second on four-fifths, and those of the last section, which included the Legislature's Sergeant-at-arms and the two Clerks of the House, full salary. Mr. Dewart made a strong plea for special consideration for these faithful employees, who had given more than half a century of their lives to the public service.

Premier Withdraws Objection.

Premier Drury at first raised the technical objection that as the amendment affected expenditures of money it was out of order. Later he withdrew the objection. He pointed out that those retiring now were the very beneficiaries who would not have contributed to the Superannuation Fund, whereas those who retired ten years hence, whom it was not proposed to include in the special class, would have contributed materially.

During the lengthy discussion on the proposal, M. M. MacBride, Labor member for Brantford, supporting the amendment, and Sam Clarke, Liberal, Northumberland, opposing it, became engaged in a lively tilt.

When the committee divided Karl Homuth, Labor member for South Waterloo; Sergt. McNamara, Soldier member for Riverdale, and M. M. MacBride, voted for the Hay amendment, and on the other side, J. W. Curry, K.C., Southeast Toronto; R. Cooper, Welland; and Sam. Clarke, voted against it.

A clause excluding from superannuation fund benefits such persons as already benefited under the Pensions Bill was stricken out.

Watson is Chairman of Chippawa Probe

The committee of the House appointed by the Government to investigate and report on the troubles at the Chippawa Hydro development met yesterday and appointed Edgar Watson (North Victoria) as Chairman. The commission will go to Chippawa to-day and will look over the work and perhaps meet some of the men. The next sitting after that will probably be Tuesday next, when evidence will be taken. A court reporter will take the evidence, most of which will be given under oath, it is understood.

HIGHER TRANSFER TAX.

Provincial Treasurer Peter Smith proposes to exact a tax of three cents per share on stock transfers instead of two cents, as originally proposed in his Budget address. With the newly announced Federal tax of two cents on each share the impost on stock transfers will amount to five cents per share.

MINIMUM WAGE BILL RECEIVES EASY PASSAGE

Liberal Leader is Its Chief Critic on Second Reading

THE PRINCIPLE APPROVED

But Various Views Are Ex- pressed as to Its Scope

The Minimum Wage Bill was given second reading in the Legislature yesterday, with very little criticism beyond that by H. H. Dewart, Liberal Leader. Other Liberals were much in favor of the bill. Mr. Dewart did not quarrel with the principle, but was inclined to think that the bill was a little too wide in its scope, as it includes domestic servants and farm workers. He thought the bill would have been better framed along the lines of the Manitoba act for industrial workers only.

Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor, explained the act, stating that it had received the endorsement of Labor. It would be operated by a commission of five, of whom two would be women. The commission would investigate each case, and draw up the minimum wage scale. Pressed as to the scale, Mr. Rollo pointed out those in effect in Manitoba and British Columbia. There they ranged from \$11 to \$15 a week. There could not be a fixed scale for all parts of the Province, he said.

Mentions School Teachers.

J. W. Curry wanted to know if it would include stenographers. Hon. Mr. Rollo said the board would have the power to deal with

what class it desired, but that it would start with those who were in the greatest need of help. The only charge upon the Province would be paying the commission an allowance per day to draw up the wage schedules. If there was an industry essential to the Province which could pay the schedule there would be a subsidy from the Government.

Thos. Marshall (Lincoln) brought up the case of school teachers. While sympathetic towards school teachers, Hon. Mr. Rollo thought they could organize. Mr. Marshall thought it would be a disgrace to the Province if school teachers were obliged to form unions to get more salary.

Mr. Dewart favored the line of the Manitoba bill. It left out farm workers and domestics.

The Minister of Labor said that he did not think the board would ever be called upon to deal with the question of domestics, but he wanted the board to be in a position to do so if necessary. The board would have nothing to do with the hours of labor. That was still controlled by the Factory Act. Hon. Geo. Henry and Hon. Thos. Crawford both favored the bill and thought it good legislation.

R. R. Hall (Parry Sound), while thinking that such a bill was a good thing, said that in this particular bill there were too many loose ends, and it was crude and unfinished.