

# DRURY AGREES TO IMPORTANT CHANGE IN ACT

Bill to Amend Workmen's  
Compensation Act Alter-  
ed by Committee

READY FOR FINAL STAGE

When the amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act came up for consideration in Committee of the House last night J. A. Pinard, Liberal, East Ottawa, launched a discussion on the injustice of cutting down injured workmen's disability allowance after it had once been decided on by the board.

R. L. Brackin, West Kent, declared that the trouble with the Workmen's Compensation Act was that the workmen did not understand it. He instanced a case of a Chatham workman who, after having lost an eye, was given a cheque by his employers for \$250 in full payment for his disability.

The Conservative group endeavored to have the clause eliminated calling for full compensation for those earning less than \$12 a week. Hon. Geo. S. Henry wanted to know why these people should be given full compensation when it was reported that it was such workmen who were the worst malingers. Hon. Mr. Rollo said it was designed to help girls working in factories for often five, six or ten dollars a week. On a vote, the motion of Mr. Henry to have the clause struck out was lost by 30 to 17.

#### Yields to Pressure.

An important change was made in clause 15 of the bill, when Premier Drury, yielding to pressure from the Opposition side, accepted a motion by Charles McCrea to strike out that part which provided for a levy on schedule two employers to meet pensions for which the employer individually liable cannot be assessed, either because of insolvency, limited liability or other causes. That part of the clause providing for additional levies for employers in schedule one necessary to meet increases to widows on pensions fixed heretofore was adopted. Much of the necessity for the clause, however, was removed by the dropping of Clause 13, which provided for the payment of the increased allowances on all payments accruing hereafter, whether the accident happened before or after the date the present bill comes into effect. This generally retroactive feature was sharply criticized, but no objection was offered to the preceding clause, which provides for pensions to widows being increased in the same manner.

#### Clause is Dropped.

The clause providing for the capitalization of pension payments in the case of schedule two employers which was intended to cover the case of companies going out of existence and leaving their compensation liabilities unprovided for, was dropped, with the understanding that it would come up again next session. This clause provided for the establishment of a Pension Reserve Fund made up of these capitalized payments, which the board at its discretion would amalgamate with Pension Reserve Fund from schedule one industries. The objection was that this might make schedule two employers bear part of the burden of schedule one employers. In agreeing to the withdrawal, Hon. Mr. Rollo intimated that next session the question of placing in one class employers contributing to a fund would be brought up. The bill went through committee and is now ready for third reading.

# IMPROPERLY DRAFTED, BILL NEARLY PASSES

LIBERAL LEADER CALLS PREM-  
IER'S ATTENTION TO  
LEGAL BLUNDER

The Government bill to give municipalities local option in taxation to an extent that would make single tax operative came within a narrow margin of going through in a form that would have made it conflict with the principle of the general law of the Province.

As drafted the bill provided that the "electors" could vote to exempt improvements, business and income, although the general law only allows ratepayers to vote on any question affecting taxation. When the bill came up for third reading in the House yesterday the matter was drawn to the attention of the Government by Mr. Dewart. After the House resumed in the evening the Prime Minister accepted an amendment by Mr. Dewart providing that only qualified ratepayers should be given the vote upon such by-laws.

To meet an objection raised by the Premier, Mr. Dewart added an amendment which would permit electors to vote where the Government believes this was justified.

#### DEWART IS CRITICAL.

H. H. Dewart, Liberal Leader, yesterday again attacked the cost of enforcing the Ontario Temperance Act when the item was reached in the estimates. He asserted again that the License Board should consist of one member. He was also critical of the Government running liquor dispensaries in the manner it did, declaring that it savored of the Government being in the liquor business. Hon. H. C. Nixon said that the receipts last year through the vendors were about four millions. He promised that full investigation would be made by the commission which would be appointed following the session to investigate the working of the O.T.A.

## Will Try to Expedite Winding Up of Company

In reply to N. Asmussen (North Waterloo), Hon. W. E. Raney promised that the Government would try to expedite the winding up of the Dominion Permanent Loan Company. K. K. Homuth (South Waterloo) was of the opinion that the Government should wind up the affairs of the company quickly. Mr. Raney declared that the assets of the company were practically all stolen because of insufficient inspection, and that they had been invested in a railway in British Columbia under disguise. The railroad seemed to be existent on paper only.

## Power Companies Object to Carmichael's Bill

Protesting against the legislation introduced in the Legislature by Hon. D. Carmichael, Sir William Mackenzie, R. J. Fleming and other officials of power companies visited Premier Drury yesterday. They objected to the bill, which would impose the penalty of cancellation of rights on a company which developed more electric power than it had the right to under agreement. They complained that the legislation was too drastic. No statement was made by the Premier, but it is understood that no assurance was given to the commission of any modification.