

TORONTO HIT HARD? WELL, WHAT OF IT? WHO MADE TORONTO?

Sam Clarke Energetically Flays Metropolis Which "For Years Has Drained Resources and Manhood of Province" in Supporting Smith Budget

TAX RESOLUTIONS PASS LEGISLATURE

Hon. Peter Smith yesterday secured the approval of the Legislature in respect of two resolutions embodying the principles of legislation underlying the inauguration of the new schemes of taxation to which he alluded in presenting his Budget.

H. H. Dewart, Southwest Toronto, vigorously protested against the discussion of the resolutions. Public opinion regarding the proposed taxation was now being crystallized, he declared, and consideration of the resolutions, in his opinion, should be deferred until members of the Legislature had had an opportunity of familiarizing themselves with the views of their constituents.

Premier Drury stated the Treasury bills could not be introduced to the House until the resolutions upon which they were based had been passed, and the Provincial Treasurer then explained his notices of motion.

Loan Companies Escape.

One minor change from the Budget was announced. The proposed increase in the taxation of loan companies, from one to two per cent., would not go into effect, Hon. Mr. Smith stated, in view of representations made to him by those companies. Increased taxation of telephone companies, exclusive of co-operative systems and of railway, steamship and Pullman companies, was announced, as forecast in the Budget, as was also the tax on the transfers of property.

This latter item met with the criticism of several members of the Opposition, urban representatives in particular taking the ground that it would work a hardship upon laborers and workingmen who were trying to secure homes of their own.

Hon. Walter Rollo said that the workingmen of Ontario were not seeking to evade their share of taxation; all they wished was a "square deal." As the representative of Labor in the Cabinet, he did not see any valid objection to the terms of the measure.

This view was reiterated by Karl Homuth, Labor member for South Waterloo, who resented the implication that the so-called "working classes" were desirous of special consideration in respect of the transfers of property.

Two Leaders—One Policy.

Hon. Howard Ferguson and Mr. Dewart approved the principle of the property tax, the latter emphasizing the fact that, should the tax become effective, the city of Toronto alone would pay half or more of the total collectable from the entire Province.

"I have never known of an afternoon when there was shown on this side of the House so much concern for the workingman," said Sam Clarke, ironically. The member for West Northumberland twitted the Leader of his group, Mr. Dewart, over his attitude regarding the proposed tax. Why should there be such a plea for Toronto? he asked.

Hon. Peter Needs Man To Sign His Cheques

In the Legislature yesterday Provincial Treasurer Smith introduced a bill which provides for the appointment of an assistant auditor in his department. According to the terms of the measure the Assistant Auditor will have the power to sign cheques in the absence of the auditor.

"Toronto, they say, pays three-fifths of the revenue of the Province. What of that?" he queried. For years the city of Toronto had drained the resources and the manhood of the Province. The Province of Ontario had made Toronto, and that city should be ashamed to boast of its wealth.

"Mr. Treasurer, if you can raise \$400,000 from this, go ahead," went on Mr. Clarke. "No one is going to be hurt. If you can get \$400,000 by this tax, you will get \$375,000 of it from those who can well afford to pay."

Effect of Resolutions.

Details of the items covered by the two resolutions were as follows:

Amendments of the Corporations Tax Act, as under:

(1) A tax of one-tenth of one per cent. on the reserve funds and undivided profits of banks; (2) an increase in the tax upon railways, based on mileage, from \$25 to \$40 per mile—aimed to put Ontario railways upon the same basis as regards taxation as those in Western Provinces, and calculated to earn \$135,000 in additional revenue; (3) an increase in the rates of taxation of telephone companies operating in Ontario from one-quarter of one per cent. to one-half of one per cent., giving \$40,000 in additional revenue; (4) a change in the method of taxation of companies leasing, hiring or operating sleeping, parlor or dining cars to a flat rate on all such of \$10,000 per annum; (5) a tax of one-tenth of one per cent. on the paid-up capital of navigation companies (steamboat companies—to be in accord with tax now levied in Quebec and to be paid, annually, by or on the first day of July.

In addition, the levying of a tax of one-fifth of one per cent. of the purchase money, to be paid by the party registering same upon every transfer of ownership of property in Ontario. This tax will come into effect only when the act is enforced.