

## MUNICIPAL CLERKS TO ISSUE LICENSES

### AMENDMENT TO MARRIAGE ACT WILL ABOLISH ITEM OF PATRONAGE

Several hours' discussion marked the passage through committee yesterday in the Legislature of Hon. H. C. Nixon's act to amend the Marriage Act. The principal change effected is to place the right to issue marriage licenses in the hands of municipal clerks. Second reading of the bill was only last Friday, but many members were absent on that occasion who were present yesterday, and much of the same ground was covered as in the former discussion. The bill went through committee without change, except in one or two minor details.

J. C. Ramsden, Southwest Toronto, urged that the Government see that deputies appointed by municipal clerks under the new act be amputation cases, but the Premier thought it would be better to leave that to the municipalities. J. C. Tolmie, Windsor, said he favored having the records of marriage licenses open to the public for inspection at any time.

Some objections being raised by M. M. MacBride, Brantford, to certain phases of the bill, the Premier told him that those matters had all been discussed on Friday, and that if Mr. MacBride had been in his seat he would have known about them.

"I am in my seat in this House as often as the Prime Minister is in his seat," said Mr. MacBride, to a chorus of "No's" from the Government side.

The Premier said that he wanted to abolish any patronage in the appointment of these officials. Mr. Ferguson said that patronage was inevitable under the present system of government, and that the Administration ought to take responsibility for the appointments.

## OPPOSE PRIVATE BILL FOR CIVIL ENGINEERS

### THEIR ACT OF INCORPORATION IS SENT TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The act respecting civil engineers to incorporate them into a body with powers over the profession similar to those of other professions, such as law, received second reading in the Legislature yesterday, and the bill will go to a special committee to be named today by Premier Drury.

There was a good deal of opposition voiced against the bill. Hon. Manning Doherty was afraid that, as it stood, it would affect the work in the Department of Agriculture. District Representatives took levels and made blue prints for the use of farmers and the bill would prevent these men doing this work.

Hon. Frank Biggs also thought the bill would need considerable changing, and the Attorney-General asked A. W. Gray, Leeds, the mover, to withdraw it until next session. H. P. Hill, West Ottawa, urged that the bill go to committee, and further discussion was as to whether the bill should be withdrawn or sent to committee. Finally it was decided to send it to a special committee chosen by the Prime Minister.

## NO FREE CURTAINS GIVEN MR. FERGUSON

### CONSERVATIVE LEADER RE- PELS INSINUATION THAT HE PROFITED FROM PROVINCE

When Hon. F. C. Biggs declared in the Legislature yesterday, in answer to a question from Mr. Cameron, that Hon. G. H. Ferguson had removed from his former apartments in the buildings certain window drapes and floor rugs, the Conservative Leader arose and protested that the statement of Hon. Mr. Biggs was entirely unfair to him.

"The Minister might have done me the justice," he said, "to say that these things were paid for at the price originally paid for them by the Government, after having been used for some years."

Hon. Mr. Ferguson declared he had purchased them in proper manner after due consultation with the Minister of Public Works, and declared he had never in any way benefited at the expense of the public Treasury, even paying his own expenses on Government trips to the North country.

## No Fixed Remuneration For Counsel Harding

In answer to a question placed on the order paper yesterday by Charles McCrea, Conservative member for Sudbury, Attorney-General Raney announced in the House that R. T. Harding, ex-Government counsel at the timber probe, was now assisting N. W. Rowell, K.C., on the Shevlin-Clarke Co. proceedings. The Attorney-General stated that no remuneration had been fixed and that Mr. Harding's bill would be taxed.

### AMENDMENTS DEFEATED.

An act to amend the Planning and Development Bill, introduced into the Legislature by H. P. Hill, West Ottawa, was defeated on second reading yesterday. The chief objection to the bill was that it delegated too much power to town planning commissions.