

WANT GAS ACT TO MEET DOOM

So Say Some Municipalities
—Others Seek Tribunal
of Three

SHOULD RATES BE FIXED?

The Drury Government will be guided in its regulation of western Ontario's natural gas supply by the result of a questionnaire now being circulated in all the municipalities interested. If the returns show a majority opinion in favor of the removal of present Government control over rates the Government will accept legislation along the lines of the Brackin Bill.

All yesterday morning and most of the afternoon the Premier and the Minister of Mines, Hon. Harry Mills, sat in conference with a big deputation from over 80 municipalities in western Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Drury stated the position of the Government in the matter, and made it plain that it would really be glad to get rid of the present responsibility. If the municipalities interested wanted the Government to remain in control of the physical field, leaving the question of rates to be determined by the respective rights of the parties under their franchises and contracts, the Government would do so.

Four questions were submitted to the members of the deputation yesterday: Are you in favor of the repeal of the present Natural Gas Conservation Act, 1921? Are you in favor of the present act, with an amendment abolishing the position of Natural Gas Referee? Are you in favor of a tribunal of three or more members to fix rates for natural gas? Are you in favor of the Government maintaining control of the gas fields and the distribution of gas?

NO COMPROMISE IN LOAN.

First reading was given in the Legislature yesterday of a bill introduced by the Minister of Education to authorize the Board of Governors of Upper Canada College to borrow \$100,000 for building purposes. Mr. Grant explained that the bill in no way committed the Province to any liability in this expenditure.

Shevlin-Clarke Bill Ready for Third Stage

In less than five minutes, and with only minor changes, the much-discussed Shevlin-Clarke Settlement Bill passed committee stage in the Legislature yesterday. The biggest change was in the title of the bill, which is now labelled "An Act Respecting Certain Timber Licenses of the Shevlin-Clarke Company, Limited."

The bill now stands ready for third reading.