

The amendments in this act are made necessary chiefly because of the other bills on insurance matters put through this session. The chief provisions are that every fire insurance company in Ontario must keep a record of its premiums and losses, and that the rights of mortgagors are protected as to selection of insurers.

Strong Opposition to Act Foisting Probation Official on Toronto

DEWART AND CURRY CLASH

After a long discussion, which culminated in H. H. Dewart, Southwest Toronto, moving for a six-months' hoist to it, Hon. W. E. Raney's bill providing for the appointment of probation officers passed second reading in the Legislature yesterday.

The Attorney-General explained that at the last session of the Dominion Parliament an amendment was made to the Criminal Code, directing that a court might place offenders on probation and these offenders should report to an officer the court should designate. The officer in question was provided for in this bill. The bill was intended to supplement Dominion legislation.

Officer for Toronto.

For such an innocent-looking bill it met with considerable opposition. The Attorney-General said that it would apply at present to large centres and that a probation officer would be appointed for Toronto. If other larger places made application the requests would be given consideration.

Mr. Dewart said Toronto had an efficient police force and reports could be made to the parole officer of that force. Speaking as a representative of Toronto, he said, there was an increasing tendency to saddle municipalities with expenditures for things they did not want. The one purpose this bill would serve would be to provide a job for someone. They would be sorry to lose the member for Southeast Toronto, "but it might be a convenient haven of rest for his weary feet."

"Why not for the member for Southwest Toronto?" asked Mr. Raney.

"The member for Southwest Toronto does not need Government assistance," said Mr. Dewart.

Mr. Dewart argued that the appointment of these officers should be left to the Police Commissioners of the city or county.

Curry's Vigorous Reply.

J. W. Curry, Southeast Toronto, made a quick reply to Mr. Dewart regarding the latter's suggestion of a "convenient haven." Regarding this particular position Mr. Curry said:

"He needs it just as much as I do and is just as apt to take it as I am. There is not any position in the gift of this House that I desire to have."

Mr. Curry said it did not tend to fair discussion when any member, because he felt annoyed at another, could draw that other member's name into the discussion without justification. He said that as far as he was concerned he did not intend to have that sort of thing go on any longer.

Hon. Howard Ferguson wanted to know why Toronto could not assign an officer, without extra expense, to do this kind of parole work. The idea in the bill, if carried out, would result in an army of new officers. Mr. Raney said that a request for a probation officer had come from Toronto only, and from that source the pressure was constant. Later he said that the request came from the County Judges.

R. L. Brackin, West Kent, objected to that part of the bill which set out that office accommodation and clerical or other assistance for

the probation officer should be supplied by the municipality. He thought the bill should be changed to read that such an officer would be appointed on request of any county or city. Mr. Raney said he had no objection to that change.

W. F. Nickle thought the Attorney-General was making a wrong step in the right direction. It was unfortunate the expenses were not to be borne entirely by the Government. If probation was to amount to anything, it should be taken as far as possible from the police force. It was absolutely essential that at the beginning of the criminal career the apprehended person should be taken absolutely away from the police and placed under the control of someone who had sympathy for a person who had made a misstep, and who had a desire to lead the straying one to a better life.

Dr. Forbes Godfrey, West York, objected to a municipality being saddled with the expense of an official it did not want. There were enough officers now, especially for law enforcement.

Not a Policeman's Job.

Premier Drury said he agreed with the remarks of the member for Kingston that the dealing with persons on probation was not a matter for the police. The Government had no intention of forcing the thing on people who were unwilling to have it. The bill might well be passed and sent to committee, he said.

J. C. Tolmie, Windsor, said that, personally, he was not in favor of a police officer being a probation officer. Mr. Tolmie, in his argument, said the act would increase the number out on probation, and would lessen the number in prisons and reduce expenses of the Province to that extent, and the Province then could perhaps afford to take the financial burden of these officers.

R. R. Hall, Parry Sound, said he was opposed to the parole system.

SHERIFFS PROPOSED AS HIGH CONSTABLES

Raney's Bill Provides for Salary Increases Where Counties Are Remiss

Hon. W. E. Raney's bill to amend the Constables Act, introduced in the Legislature yesterday, was said by the Attorney-General to encourage Sheriffs to become High Constables. The bill provided that, when a County Council fails to nominate a High Constable, the Sheriff will become ipso facto High Constable, and, when installed in this position, may be voted an additional salary of \$500 by the Province.

Unless There Is Strong Objection Night Sessions Will Be Held

The debate on Hon. W. E. Raney's bill to abolish appeals to the Privy Council will not be held until after Easter. Thomas Marshall, Liberal member for Lincoln, made the suggestion yesterday in the Legislature, and the Premier replied that the Government was willing that the bill should go over for the present. He thought it would be a good plan to stick to the Budget until it was disposed of.

The Premier added that unless there was very strong objection the members might as well understand that they would hold night sessions on Monday as well as on other nights, particularly next week.

H. H. Dewart, Southwest Toronto, referred to the debate to be held tomorrow night under the auspices of the York County Law Society on the proposed abolition of appeals to the Privy Council. He thought the members should be permitted to attend. The Premier said he was unable to agree. He would like to hear the debate himself, he said, but he did not feel the House could lose the time.