

tions are carried out?" asked a member. "Absolutely," replied Mr. Biggs. The clause carried.

During question time Mr. Raney told the House that the amount of the bill for witness fees in the Shevlin-Clarke case was not yet made up, nor had the counsel fees yet been taxed.

ASKS FOR CHANGE IN DRAINAGE ACT

J. C. Tolmie, Liberal member for Windsor, moved in the Legislature yesterday for second reading to be given his bill to amend the Municipal Drainage Act. This amendment, which he said was drafted by the Drainage Referee, would give the right to a person to have the Referee make an inquiry where there was reasonable apprehension of damage to property by reason of any drainage.

Hon. F. C. Biggs opposed the bill, remarking that they should not court trouble until they came to it.

Hon. Howard Ferguson thought the bill was of a precautionary type only and approved of it.

Premier Drury said it might create the right to sue for damages for apprehended injury, and if Mr. Tolmie wanted his idea put into legislation the bill would have to be changed.

Several members urged that the bill go to committee, and that disposition finally was made of it, though the Attorney-General said he rather doubted the principle of the bill.

Natural Gas Affairs to Be Administered by New Board

REPRESENT ALL PARTIES

An important bill was introduced in the Legislature by Hon. Harry Mills, Minister of Mines, regarding natural gas. The bill creates a board which will supersede the Gas Referee. The companies will have one representative on the board, the consumers another, and the third will be chosen by the other two, or, if they cannot agree on a choice, by the Minister himself. The consumers' representative will be nominated by the members in the Legislature representing constituencies in which natural gas is used. The Cabinet will have the power of appointment on the board, the companies and the members merely nominating their choices.

Board of Reference.

The terms of the act set forth that there is to be a Board of Reference for the purposes of the Natural Gas Conservation Act of 1921, the board to be composed of three members. One of these members, representing the companies producing and distributing natural gas, will be nominated at a meeting, to be held at such time and place as the Minister of Mines may appoint, of representatives of such companies, and this meeting will be called by the Minister by seven days' notice, at least, to the companies by registered letter. Every company may be represented at that meeting by one person, duly authorized.

A second member of the board, representing the consumers of natural gas, will be nominated at a meeting of the members of the Legislature representing the electoral districts where natural gas is used. The third member will be named by the other two, or if they cannot agree in one month after a date named by the Minister of Mines, the Minister is to name him. The third member is to be Chairman of the board.

Wherever in the Natural Gas Act the "referee" is named, the board will be deemed to be substituted for it, and the board is to have all the powers and is to perform the duties of the referee. Nothing in the Natural Gas Conservation Act, 1921,

or in the act respecting natural gas, is to affect any existing contract or agreement between the owner of land on which a producing gas well is situated and the person operating the same. The act is to come into force on the first of July next.

Gas County Members.

Members representing the following electoral districts are to choose a representative to the board: North and South Essex, East and West Elgin, East and West Kent, East and West Lambton, East, West and North Middlesex, London, North and South Oxford, North and South Norfolk, North and South Brant, South Waterloo, North and South Wentworth, Haldimand, Welland, Lincoln, Windsor, East and West Hamilton, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls.

NO ADJUSTMENT AS TO MILEAGE

But Way Is Now Open for Road Negotiations With Government

The Board of Control had a preliminary conference with Hon. F. C. Biggs yesterday regarding the Government's Provincial highway program, and while no decision was arrived at, the way opened for further negotiations.

Works Commissioner Harris declared that a 40-foot bridge would not be satisfactory for traffic over the Humber River, and further objected to the city being asked to pay the excess cost of a bridge 76 feet in width.

Mr. Biggs stated that the Provincial suburban area would extend 27 1-2 miles out of the city. The members of the board thought this was too much, and suggested that the area be limited to 10 miles.

Mayor Maguire pointed out that the Government contemplated dealing only with three highways, namely, Yonge street, Dundas street and Kingston road. Later, Bathurst, Dufferin and perhaps the Kennedy road might come in. He asked the Minister if the city consented at the present time to accept the 27 1-2 mile scheme, when the other roads were taken over, would the mileage be adjusted? To this Mr. Biggs was not agreeable.

It was stated that the department was working on the problem of adjusting the conditions under which the city is working with the Toronto and York Roads Commission, and as the conference adjourned Mr. Biggs remarked that it was the first time these matters had come up, and he saw nothing that could not be arranged.