

BILLS IN LEGISLATURE

The Minimum Wage Board, under the provisions of an amendment to the existing act introduced yesterday into the Legislature by Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor, will have the right to regulate the hours of work as well as the wages of those under its control. The act applies only to women workers.

The amendment directs that the board is to have the power to conduct such investigations as it may deem necessary for the purpose of ascertaining the wages, hours and conditions prevailing in any class of employment, and for this purpose it is to possess all the powers that may be conferred upon a commissioner under the Public Inquiries Act. Where the maximum hours established by the board for a trade, occupation or calling in Ontario are lower than permitted under the Factory, Shop or Office Buildings Act, the order of the board shall prevail.

J. Cridland, South Norfolk, introduced an amendment to the Ontario Temperance Act, to the effect that standard hotels throughout the Province are to have the exclusive right to sell 2 per cent. beer. Mr. Cridland's purpose in introducing this amendment is to encourage the hotels to keep better houses for the accommodation of the travelling public.

Third reading, in the absence of H. H. Dewart, Southeast Toronto, was given yesterday to Mr. Biggs' bill regarding the capitalization of the revenue from motor licenses. As Mr. Dewart had expressed his intention of moving that the bill should be sent back to committee, when he came into the House he asked that the bill be considered again. As there is some doubt as to the power of the Legislature to do this, once a bill has passed third reading, the Speaker is to inquire and make a ruling. Premier Drury said he had no objection to the bill being reconsidered if it could be done.

Gas Problem Will Always Be Hard to Handle, Says Premier

Second reading was given in the Legislature yesterday to Hon. Harry Mills' bill to provide for a Board of Arbitration, instead of the present Referee, in regard to natural gas questions. There were some objections registered by certain Labor members to the whole gas question. Charles Swayze (Niagara Falls) wanted to know why the consumers were not given some benefits as well as the well-owners.

Dr. H. A. Stevenson (London) said that gas companies should be made to live up to their contracts. There was some discussion among the speakers regarding the Referee (Mr. Henderson), but Government members extolled his merits highly.

Premier Drury said the gas question was hard to handle. He reviewed the situation and said that the former Government had acted properly when it first stepped in, but after that the matter of contract did not stand where it stood before. "It is an ungrateful business," said the Premier. "No Government wants to touch it." He told of the calling of the conference between producers and consumers, and this bill, he said, was the outcome. He hoped it would be a reasonable solution of the gas problem until the last cubic foot of gas had been used.

Second reading was given to the bill increasing the number of trustees of Albert College, Belleville, to

RANEY INSISTS LENNOX MOUNT WITNESS STAND

"Must Face Charges," He Declares — He Will Also Testify

J. A. AYEARST IS HEARD

Following wholesale denials of the allegations made in the Legislature by T. H. Lennox, and those made by H. H. McCutcheon, former O.T.A. operator, on the witness stand, the Public Accounts Committee was told by Hon. W. E. Raney yesterday morning that Mr. Lennox "has got to face these charges" and "submit himself to examination by the Attorney-General. "I, in turn," said Hon. Mr. Raney, "will submit myself to examination."

In a decidedly emphatic and forceful statement at the conclusion of the committee sitting, Attorney-General Raney pointed out the length of time during which the committee had been engaged with these matters, called attention to the political utterances of Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, wherein, Mr. Raney said, he undertook to convict the Attorney-General's Department, and said he did not propose to let the inquiry drag on and conclude with loose ends hanging.

Examination Goes On.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson accused the Minister of making a speech for political and publicity purposes, whereupon Mr. Raney told him he could not have all the publicity. And when Mr. Ferguson suggested that the announcement of such a decision might better have been left until a day when Mr. Lennox was on hand, Mr. Raney said: "He should be here now. I'm telling you. You're his keeper. That (Mr. Lennox's examination) will be the procedure tomorrow morning."

Rev. J. A. Ayearst, Chief Inspector of the License Board, testified that, outside of the cases which had been brought out in committee, he knew no men of criminal record having been in the employ of the department. One or two of their men, he said, had been convicted of being drunk and one of B.O.T.A.; that was all. He had nothing to do, he said, with the employment of Lloyd Gordon.

Can Get Good Operators.

The Chief Inspector dissented sharply from the view expressed by General Elliott, that it was extremely difficult to get good, straightforward men to assist in the work of enforcing the Ontario Temperance Act. "I don't think it is," he said, "I never had any difficulty getting them. There are a dozen applications on hand now, any one of whom, I would say, could be accepted."

Proceeding from one charge to another, Mr. Ayearst testified that women had never been employed in O.T.A. work to his knowledge; it was true he had gone bail for H. H. McCutcheon, as stated, but he then believed, and believed still, he was innocent of the charge laid against him. He believed the Guelph incident was a "frame-up." He denied that he had ever given character evidence for Slavin and advised the committee to read the evidence of the case.