

Line, and the future acquisition of the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway.

The Premier, in several proposed additional clauses, makes it clear that, although the money to meet the cost of construction and operation shall be borrowed on the credit of the corporation at large, the special rate imposed by the by-law to provide for the payment of principal and interest shall be imposed upon the rateable property within the voting district only; also the money to meet the corporation's share of any deficit shall be raised by special rate upon the rateable property within the voting district only.

#### Many Get in Debate.

Submission of Premier Drury's proposed amendments came at the end of a three-hour committee consideration of the 30-clause 1022 Hydro-radial Bill, which is to supersede the 1914 legislation. Discussion on the measure was confined to practically half a dozen members of the House — the Premier, Hon. Messrs. Raney, Doherty, Ferguson, Henry and J. W. Curry, K.C., with W. F. Nickle, K.C.; T. Marshall, Lincoln; A. C. Lewis, and Jos. Thompson interjecting on occasion.

The most remarkable thing about the discussion of the bill proper was the facility with which the lengthy and important document was passed upon. Conservative forces dwindled to three on an occasion, and the Liberals facing the Government never numbered more than seven or eight. It might be fairly said that the percentage of members who even listened to the discussion was small.

The net result of the discussion was one important and one fairly important amendment, with a score or more alterations in verbiage and punctuation.

#### Voting Strength Changed.

The most important change seemed to be that which raised from 10 to 15 per cent. the proportion of municipal responsibility required to defeat the project in the event of one or more municipalities turning down a radial scheme on the vote. As the bill stands, one or more municipalities on a proposed route may vote adversely on the by-laws, and their action still not hinder the other municipalities, provided the proportion of proposed liability dropping out is not more than 15 per cent. of the total. The amendment was suggested by J. W. Curry, K.C., (South-east Toronto), and readily concurred in by Premier Drury when it was argued that the bill had other ample safeguards.

Upon the suggestion of H. H. Dewart, K.C., the length of time for which members of the association shall hold office was changed from five to three years.

Dr. H. Stevenson, London, voted alone for a proposed amendment to allow members of municipal councils to sit on association boards.

Having spent the whole evening, until 11.30, on the bill, Premier Drury suggested that the bill be reported, reprinted with his amendments, and again come before committee for final approval.

## MEMBERS OWN PRIVATE BILLS

### Can Withdraw Them if They See Fit, Speaker Rules

## DEFEAT MINING CHANGES

After reading to the House precedents bearing on the question, Hon. Nelson Parliament, Speaker of the Legislature, said yesterday that he thought it was clear that a private bill was the property of the member who introduced it, and if he was willing to withdraw his bill it was his right to ask that it be withdrawn.

The question came up on the second reading of a private bill introduced by G. G. Halcrow, Independent-Labor member for East Hamilton, regarding the power to dispose of a clubhouse occupied by the Hamilton branch of the Great War Veterans' Association. Subsequent to its introduction the bill was changed so much in the Private Bills Committee that Mr. Halcrow had asked, when the revised act came to second reading stage, that the measure be withdrawn.

#### Bill is Withdrawn.

That was some weeks ago, but nothing had been done to let Mr. Halcrow consult interested parties in Hamilton to see if some arrangement could not be arrived at. Yesterday, when the order was called, Mr. Halcrow asked again that the bill be withdrawn. After some discussion the Speaker was appealed to and he gave his ruling. The bill was then withdrawn.

An act to amend the Community Halls Act was held over in committee for the redrafting of a clause. The act provides that a township or village may acquire property in another municipality for community hall purposes, but the House decided yesterday that the consent of the municipality in which the property acquired is situated should be obtained, as the purchased property would be free from taxation. The clause will be drafted to cover that point.

#### Mining Changes Killed.

Hon. Howard Ferguson's bill to amend the Mining Act, so as to restore the former working conditions, was defeated. The present working conditions, brought in last year, speaking generally, are 200 days in five years. The former conditions were 240 days in three years. Mr. Ferguson claimed that the new conditions held up development, and in this he was supported by Malcolm Lang, Cochrane. The Minister of Mines, Hon. Harry Mills, declared he was most emphatically opposed to the changes suggested by Mr. Ferguson, and said he had letters protesting against the change.