

# HOUSE IS SPLIT BY LONDON BILL, BUT IT CARRIES

## Stormy Passage Given Measure Affecting Street Railway Matters

### ACT BREAKS CONTRACT?

By a vote of 50 to 24 the bill of R. L. Brackin, respecting the London Street Railway, passed third and final reading in the Legislature yesterday. Despite the fact that a saving amendment was suggested by no less a person than Premier Drury, with his support and sanction, that would have sent back the bill to committee, the vote against the amendment was over two to one. Even the Cabinet was divided.

Mr. Drury's suggestion, which Dr. Stevenson, Labor member for London, embodied in his amendment, was that the bill should go back to committee and while there have a clause inserted that would prevent the bill coming into force for three months, during which time the city of London would have an opportunity to vote on the proposition of taking over the street railway.

#### Issue Divides All Parties.

All parties were divided on the proposal. In the Cabinet, the amendment received the support of Premier Drury, Hon. Walter Rollo, Hon. Dougall Carmichael and Hon. H. C. Nixon. Labor members supporting the amendment were Messrs. Stevenson and Cunningham; Farmer members voting for it were Messrs. Leeson, Stringer, Slack, Cameron, Johnston (Simcoe), Warren, Brown, Ross (Glengarry), Ross (Oxford), Carty, McArthur, Murdock; Liberal members, J. C. Tolmie; Conservative members, Messrs. Nickle, Lewis, Hill and Buckland; Independent, G. G. Halcrow.

Messrs. Freeborn and Lethbridge, two of the Middlesex members, voted against the amendment. Toronto and York members who voted against the amendment included Hon. Thomas Crawford, H. H. Dewart, Hon. George S. Henry, J.

C. Ramsden. Labor members who voted against it included Messrs. Heenan, Homuth, Swayze. Cabinet members who voted against the amendment were Messrs. Raney, Doherty, Smith and Bowman.

#### Has Chequered Career.

The bill has had stiff opposition and it had a chequered career even in its third reading. First, the amendment of Dr. Stevenson was declared out of order, and it was at the suggestion of Mr. Nickle that the bill was held over for an hour until another amendment was prepared. Then this amendment did not meet the approval of the Premier, who suggested another that Dr. Stevenson accepted.

Mr. Brackin held that nothing in the bill deprived the people of London from voting on the proposal to take over the road, and that the amendment was unnecessary. Dr. Stevenson claimed that the City Council of London had already passed a by-law to submit the matter to the people. This was questioned by Karl Homuth, who said the Council had decided only to investigate the advisability of taking a vote of the people.

#### To Hold Contracts Inviolable.

Hon. Manning Doherty said he thought he should stand by the bill as sent from the Private Bills Committee, though he did not agree with the principle of interfering with contracts.

Wellington Hay (Liberal Leader) thought the London City Council should have made a move before the bill got as far as third reading. He objected strongly to the introducing of this amendment at the last moment.

J. C. Tolmie declared that he stood where he always stood—he did not believe in breaking contracts.

# TO GIVE HYDRO A "BLACK EYE"

## Such Is Dewart's Idea of Part Allotted to Gregory Inquiry

### CARMICHAEL DENIES THIS

Discussing Hydro estimates in the Legislature last night, the question was asked when the Gregory Commission on Chippawa would finish its work. Premier Drury said the length of time the inquiry would last was uncertain. He said the commission would probably commence its public sessions shortly.

Dr. H. A. Stevenson, Labor member for London, wanted a promise made that the commission would report next session. Col. Carmichael, in reply, said that all the Government could say was that the commission would work with all despatch to try and have its report ready for next session. Personally, he could not see why the commission could not report before next session.

Col. Carmichael said they expected five turbines would be installed in Chippawa by the spring of 1923.

H. H. Dewart criticized the Gregory Commission, asking whether it would accomplish more than giving a black eye to Hydro, "which the Government wants to do."

"That is not so," interrupted Col. Carmichael.

"We know what you have done for radials," said Mr. Dewart.

## EQUALIZE POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS

### R. L. Brackin's Bill Reported by Legislative Municipal Committee

By a vote of 20 to 4, the Municipal Committee of the Legislature decided yesterday to report R. L. Brackin's bill to amend the School Sites Act by giving separate school trustees the same power to expropriate land as is now possessed by public school boards. Joseph Thompson and Hon. Thomas Crawford, Toronto members, opposed the measure on the ground that it interfered with civic authority, and J. W. Curry, K.C., supported it.

When it was suggested that the bill was aimed at Toronto, J. A. Pinard, East Ottawa, denied that that was the case. "When Toronto is off the map," he said, "there will be still something left of the Province of Ontario."