

and when a man came before the board for compensation the policy of the board was to get rid of him as quickly as possible. In the case of an illiterate man, it was essential that he should have someone to advise him.

#### Complains of Injustices.

"Then," exclaimed Mr. Brackin, amid laughter, "what are the duties of the Minister if they are not connected with this business?" The West Kent member insisted that the Minister of Labor was responsible for the policy of the board, though not perhaps for what the board might do in settling any particular claim. The Minister was responsible for continuing in office men whose actions were not in the interests of those whom the act was designed to protect. The policy of the board should not be to get rid of a workman for the smallest amount possible. The board sent out no information to a workman as to what his rights were; and when he went to a lawyer to ascertain those rights all he received from the board was a letter to say that it was not the policy of the board to have correspondence with solicitors. "It is the duty of the board to enlighten this unfortunate wretch on what his rights are," Mr. Brackin declared.

The West Kent member cited a case which came under his own personal observation. It was that of a Frenchman who could not read or

the Provincial Architect had approved the plans for the new building.

#### County Would Stay Aloof.

Though admitting that the proposition had much to commend it, Reeve William Keith of Newmarket opposed amalgamation on the ground that York county could best manage its own affairs. Governments had the habit of changing; the Registry Offices might be re-established. If the Government insisted on the amalgamation, well and good, but from the point of view of the county, Mr. Keith said, he could not approve the change.

Deputy Reeve Arthur Edwards of Mimico endeavored to have the Council approve the principle of the amalgamation and refer the agreement back for better terms. He was the only Councillor that voted for his resolution.

W. J. Gardhouse, A. F. Wilson, a barrister; J. F. Kennedy and Arthur Pugsley, all spoke against the change.

### Bill for "P. R." Voting Introduced in Legislature

Provision for voting under the system of proportional representation in municipal elections is proposed in a bill introduced into the Legislature yesterday by K. K. Homuth, Labor member for South Waterloo. Mr. Homuth's measure would make it optional for a municipality to use "P. R." for its municipal election, but upon a demand of five per cent. of the ratepayers Council must submit the question to a vote of the people.

In the same bill there is a clause providing that upon a three-fifths vote of the Council proportional representation shall be the system under which the municipal election shall be conducted.

### Seeking Amendment To Deserted Wives Act

Introduced by Rev. Peter Bryce, a deputation representative of the Salvation Army, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican Churches, Toronto Trades and Labor Council, G.W.V.A. and Neighborhood Workers' Association waited upon Attorney-General Raney at the Parliament buildings yesterday, asking Government support for a bill introduced into the Legislature by J. McNamara, Riverdale, which amends the Deserted Wives and Children Maintenance Act.

Mr. McNamara's bill contains the following amendments:

(1) That adultery and venereal disease on the part of the husband be added to the reason that would entitle a married woman living apart from her husband to be deemed deserted. (2) That the summons be returnable in the same manner as any other summons. (3) That the complainant should have the same right to reopen a case as the husband or father.

# DRURY IS WARNED LEST POWER RIGHTS ARE STOLEN AWAY

## Brantford Member Charges Gregory Commission With Leaking Information

### PREMIER IS COMPLACENT

Genuine alarm was expressed in the Legislature yesterday by M. M. MacBride, Brantford; A. C. Lewis, Northeast Toronto, and Hon. G. H. Ferguson over the reported activities of United States private interests to secure the right to launch a pretentious power development scheme on the St. Lawrence. Reading to the House a Washington despatch in yesterday morning's Globe, Mr. MacBride moved the adjournment of the House to discuss the matter. He asked if the Government had any information and if it had taken steps to inquire into the reported proposal.

#### News to Mr. Drury.

Premier Drury replied that he knew nothing and the Government knew nothing of any such proposal as outlined. Before negotiations could proceed, he assured the House, the Government would have to know all about it, because he understood that application would have to come through Ottawa powers to the Provincial authorities. He thought it would be a little premature to act upon information in newspaper articles which had not otherwise been brought to the attention of the Government.

The Premier's statement of lack of knowledge of a move on the St. Lawrence by private interests brought down upon his head the criticism of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson. Obviously, he said, the Government was not alive to a dangerous situation which had been mooted and discussed up and down the country for a long time. Ontario, he believed, was in a serious situation as regards power supply, and the St. Lawrence development was the key to the whole problem. The Province would be badly served if power development potentialities were allowed to slip, and he thought the Government ought to take steps to protect the interests of the Province.

#### Warns Against Complacency.

A. C. Lewis, Conservative member for Northeast Toronto, who has acted as Secretary of the Deep Waterways organization, thought that Premier Drury ought not to take it for granted that Provincial jurisdiction over St. Lawrence power supplies was admitted by the Federal authorities. The Ottawa department, he said, was becoming stronger and stronger in its claim to power rights on navigable rivers, and Ontario might find that the Federal Government would conclude an agreement with Washington without consulting Ontario.

#### Supplying the Enemy.

During the brief discussion the member for Brantford, Mr. MacBride, reiterated his protest that the wide-open investigation being made by the Gregory Commission into Hydro affairs, with its attendant publicity and corps of American "expert probers," was playing right into the hands of the enemies of Hydro and giving them information and data respecting Hydro business affairs for which they would formerly gladly have paid thousands of dollars.

Premier Drury concluded the discussion by reiterating that it was not the purpose or the intention of the Government to "jump in the air" at every newspaper despatch. He assured the House, however, that the rights of the Province would be properly protected when the time came.