

ONE REGISTRY OFFICE FOR CITY AND COUNTY

Despite Solid York Opposition, Legislature Approves Amalgamation Bill

WILL BE NO COERCION

Despite the vigorous opposition of T. H. Lennox, K.C., Conservative member for North York, who submitted an almost unanimous opposition from York County Council, Attorney-General Raney's bill to amalgamate the various Registry Offices in Toronto and York was given second reading in the Legislature yesterday, and sent to the Legal Committee. The standing vote was 15 to 9.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, professed a little suspicion as to just who the Government had in mind for the important post of Registrar of the coordinated institution, and asked when announcement of the new Registrar's name was to be made. Attorney-General Raney responded that announcement would be made before the election, to which the Conservative Leader replied: "Isn't he going to run?" Further cross-floor quips led Hon. Mr. Raney to deny the imputation with: "There is no one in the Government who would accept the responsibility of the post."

No Coercion for York.

Debate waged for the most part between Toronto and York members and the Attorney-General, with J. M. Webster, U.F.O. member for Lambton, rising to interject a word of opposition to the bill. Mr. Webster said he thought Mr. Lennox was conservative when he said that 45 out of 46 York county members had voted in Council against the measure. He was sure twice 45 County Councillors had personally voiced their opposition to him.

The burden of Hon. Mr. Raney's argument on behalf of the measure was that it would effect great saving to the city and county and to the public, to have a unification of offices as was proposed in the bill. He repeated several times that the Government proposed no coercion for York county to make them amenable to the move. His final plea to the House, after the bill had been hammered somewhat by Mr. Lennox and W. F. Nickle, K.C., was that the Legal Committee be left to hear the argument and modify it to whatever extent they deemed wise—possibly to include only the Toronto offices.

York Fears Toronto.

Mr. Lennox opened by reciting York county's opposition, and read resolutions to that effect. Litigation, he said, would be the result of the agreement between county and city respecting court house accommodation, and the county did not desire a subsequent recurrence of similar conditions with respect to Registry Office administration.

Thomas Crawford (Conservative, Northwest Toronto) expressed surprise at his colleague's attitude, believing, he said, that the bill was the result of agreement reached between the city and county. A. C. Lewis, Northeast Toronto, said he favored the bill, but would not vote to coerce the county. J. W. Curry, K.C., Liberal, Southeast Toronto, thought there should be no hesitancy to put through legislation deemed to be in the best interests of the people. F. W. Hay, Liberal Leader, favored sending it to committee, and the Attorney-General was called upon to explain that the bill arises at the particular moment because of practically three vacancies existing in the Registrarships.

City Wants Change.

"If 45 members of the County Council voted against the bill and one for it," asked W. F. Nickle, K.C., "and there is to be no coercion, why

do you ask the Legal Committee to deal with it?"

When J. W. Curry, K.C., explained that Toronto regarded present conditions as coercion upon the city, the Kingston member retorted: "My understanding is to be, then, that Toronto, being coerced as regards present conditions, seeks to coerce the county in order to remedy them?"

Mr. Curry—That is a fair interpretation.

U. F. O. AMENDMENT CREDITS DOHERTY WITH LIFTING BARS

Government Members Reply to Sinclair Resolution by Extolling Minister

WHO RAISED EMBARGO?

Government members' response to W. E. N. Sinclair's (K.C.) resolution condemnatory of the Drury Government's agricultural policy and record is an amendment eulogizing and applauding the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Manning Doherty, for "his eminent services in bringing about the removal of the cattle embargo."

The motion, which comes as an amendment to the amendment, was introduced in the House last night by J. M. Webster, U. F. O. member for West Lambton, seconded by J. G. Lethbridge, West Middlesex. It sets out "that this House has learned with great satisfaction that legislation has been passed by the British House of Parliament in removing the embargo on Canadian cattle, and this House recognizes the eminent services rendered by the Minister of Agriculture of Ontario in bringing about this result after many years of previous effort; and this House desires to record its great appreciation of the shrewd and successful work of the Minister of Agriculture in this connection."

Henry Makes Complaint.

Although Hon. G. S. Henry, ex-Minister of Agriculture, was understood to have had the floor, Mr. Webster came on at 8 o'clock, and Mr. Henry, later in the evening, complained at the advantage which had been taken of his temporary absence from the House, the result being, he declared, that he was debarred from making an amendment which he had prepared for the debate. Mr. Webster's explanation was that it was a misunderstanding.

Spokesmen in last night's agricultural debate were Mr. Webster, Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Premier Drury and F. G. Sandy, U.F.O. member for South Victoria, with Hon. Mr. Henry moving the adjournment rather early in the evening.

Mr. Webster started at 8 o'clock in a semi-humorous vein of discussion, which was carried along by Mr. Ferguson, and, indeed, by the Prime Minister, for the first portion of his speech. Mr. Webster, while admiring legal members of the Opposition benches for their personality and legal abilities, thought the legal members of the House might be better employed attending to their legal business than attempting to look after the farmers' interests. Attorney-General Raney inadvertently applauded this remark, at which Mr. Ferguson and the Opposition leaders raised a laugh.

Compliments Doherty.

Mr. Ferguson, after paying some tribute to the apparent industry and sincerity of the Minister of Agriculture, who, he said, if any Minister of the Drury Government could be credited with taking his responsibilities seriously, could be so credited.

But the Conservative Leader was not prepared to accord Mr. Doherty all the credit for the removal of the cattle embargo, and reminded that the first definite promise was brought about at the instance of Hon. Robert Rogers. In any event,