

Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

# ASK TWO-THIRDS VOTE INSTEAD OF MAJORITY TO JOIN UNION CHURCH

**Main Provision of Bill to Be Introduced in Legislature Today by Non-Concurring Members of Presbyterian Church — Question of Continuing to Use the Name "Presbyterian" Is Referred To**

## PROPERTY DIVISION ONE OF FEATURES

**Commission of Three, One of Whom Shall Be a Judge, Is Suggested to Deal With This Problem, Their Award to Be Final — Two Bills Go to Committee Next Tuesday**

Particulars of the bill to be introduced into the Legislature today by non-concurring members of the Presbyterian Church were made known last night, the main provision being that each congregation enters the United Church of Canada by a two-thirds vote instead of by a majority vote, as is contemplated at present.

The petitioners for the bill are Thomas McMillan, Toronto; Rev. J. A. McGillivray, Guelph; John F. Michie, Toronto, and Rev. J. W. Macnamara, Toronto. The bill is to be called the Presbyterian Church in Canada Act.

### Does Not Affect Civil Rights.

The bill sets out that the United Church of Canada Act of the Parliament of Canada does not in any way affect or vary the civil rights within Ontario of any person as a minister or member of the unincorporated religious community commonly called the Presbyterian Church in Canada; nor does the said act affect the interest of any such person in any property within Ontario held by or for such Church in any manner howsoever, including congregational property, and in particular the said act does not prevent nor interfere with the right of members of the said unincorporated religious community to continue to use in Ontario the name of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and no vote of members of any congregation under the said act has in any way affected the title to or beneficial interest in any congregational property in Ontario, real or personal.

### Privileges of a Minister.

No person after June 10 next is to exercise any of the rights, powers or privileges of a minister or member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada unless he is a member of a Presbyterian congregation not in communion with the United Church of Canada, and every person who, being a minister or member of the said Presbyterian Church at the

time of his appointment or election to any office or place, or of any court, college, corporation, board, or society, on or after June 10 next is a minister or member of the United Church shall forthwith be deemed to have vacated such office or place, and the proper authority in the Presbyterian Church may refill the office.

### Shall Be Disqualified.

All ministers, elders, professors and officials of the Presbyterian Church in Canada who are members of the United Church shall be disqualified from acting in Ontario as members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and of any Synod or Presbytery, or as officials in Ontario of that Church or any of its boards, societies or subsidiary organizations, and from exercising in Ontario any jurisdiction, power or control as such ministers, elders or officials. Conversely, any and all members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada as remain Presbyterians and are not members of the United Church shall continue to hold all rights, powers, etc., in such offices in which they exercise authority, and shall be entitled to appoint and add in such manner as they see fit ad-

ditional ministers and elders as members of the General Assembly or Synod or Presbytery, as the case may be.

All books and records of Synod and Presbytery in Ontario of the Presbyterian Church shall belong to and remain in the control and custody of such members of such Synod or Presbytery as remain Presbyterian and are not members of the United Church.

### Books of Missionary Societies.

All books and records of each missionary, auxiliary or missionary society which do not under the provisions of the new act become a congregation of the United Church on June 10 next shall belong to and remain in the control and custody of such auxiliary society or organization as part of such congregation and shall not belong to or be subject to the control of the United Church of Canada or of any society or organization which becomes a part, or subject to the control, of the United Church.

If in any congregation in Ontario of members of the said unincorporated religious community (the Presbyterian Church), at a meeting duly called in accordance with the Religious Institutions Act and held before June 10 next, not less than two-thirds of the members who were on July 19, 1924, qualified to vote, vote to cease being members of the Presbyterian Church and to become members of the United Church, then the said members of the congregation voting shall on June 10 become a congregation of the United Church, and the property, real and personal, is to be transferred to the United Church. The same provisions apply if the vote was taken under the authority of the act passed at Ottawa last year.

### Division of Property.

The Lieutenant - Governor - in - Council shall appoint a Commission to make a fair and equitable division between the two Churches of all the property, real and personal, under the jurisdiction of the Legislature, held by or for the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in any manner whatsoever, excepting Knox College in the City of Toronto, and excepting congregational property. There are to be three Commissioners, one of whom is to be a Judge. The award of the Commissioners is to be final.