

Tuesday, Feb. 8th

GOVERNMENT CARRIES BIG NUMBER OF BILLS THROUGH COMMITTEE

Routine Measures Are Passed Without Dissension in Local Legislature

NINE BILLS PASSED

Sitting for an hour yesterday afternoon the Ontario Legislature furthered its sessional business by carrying through the House Committee stage nine bills emanating from the Statute Revision Commission, and by giving second reading to another measure from that Commission proposed to strengthen the regulations governing bills of sale and chattel mortgages.

As each measure was brought before the House it was explained by either the Premier or one of his Ministers. As the bills were chiefly consolidations of the law they were carried without dissension.

Teachers' Superannuation.

First, the House in committee dealt with the bill respecting the superannuation of certain teachers and inspectors. This measure, it was stated, simply clarified existing legislation. The bill respecting the acquisition of land for school purposes next considered was another consolidation.

The measure proposing amendments to the Industrial Schools Act, next brought forward, was, said Premier Ferguson, a move on the part of the Government to remove much of the penal stigma attached to Juvenile Court cases. The bill is aimed to benefit wayward lads, and its chief proposal is that "children committed to Industrial Schools may be sent to other institutions," such as the Bowmanville School for boys.

The bill to amend the Arbitration Act, next carried, was simply a consolidation. When, next, the Minors' Protection Act was considered, it was explained that this was chiefly to give more discretion to magistrates in dealing with minors, and provided a change in fines.

Even Homer Nods.

The amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act, next carried, was an attempt, so it was pointed out, to clarify the wording of sections put in the act in 1925.

"It seems," said Col. Price, "that in 1925 clearness was sacrificed for brevity."

"Surely," interjected Liberal Leader Sinclair, "the Government will not admit that it legislated badly."

"The best Governments," smiled Col. Price, "make mistakes."

Finally the House in committee carried the "act respecting hours of labor and two-platoon system of firemen" (a change in title, not in matter, Hon. Dr. Godfrey explained), the bill to encourage the planting and growing of trees (providing a penalty for the injuring of trees on highways) and the amendment to the Provincial Loans Act (which is to give the Government power to cancel securities in its possession which are a charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund).

The chief discussion of the day, and it but brief, came with the second reading of the act to amend the Bills of Sale and Chattel Mortgage Act. This bill, Premier Ferguson explained, was to provide for the registration of "floating charges," documents legally recognized in the financial world. It was, Col. Price pointed out, "to rectify glaring abuse" in deals involving mortgages. It was partly new legislation, though recommended by the Statute Revision Commission.

Raney Asks Questions.

Hon. W. E. Raney wondered if the measure, which was of particular interest to financial men and members of the legal profession, had been advertised widely enough. Had those interested in this enactment expressed their opinion of it. The Prime Minister replied that the legal profession and brokers had been before the Commission in the matter.

Then, with the second reading of the bill, the House was adjourned until today.