

## LOCAL LEGISLATURE HAS CALM SESSION FOLLOWING DEBATE

### Bills Amending Mining Act and Wolf Bounty Act Are Passed

#### QUESTIONS BY RANEY

After Tuesday's afternoon and evening session, given over to the heat of debate, and climaxed with Premier Ferguson's bombshell announcement of his Government Control Commission, the Ontario Legislature took yesterday to regain its poise.

It had been expected that the debate would be continued, but this was not the case. Instead, the House sat only for half an hour in the afternoon, to receive a brief array of new bills to pass in committee on two measures and to hear the Prime Minister answer two questions by members.

#### Amend Mining Act.

The chief discussion of the afternoon came when the House in Committee considered the bill to amend the Mining Act. When almost the last clause was reached Hon. W. E. Raney, Progressive Leader, objected to a subsection which empowered the Minister of Mines, in the event of the illness or absence of the Mining Judge, to appoint some one to act in the Judge's place. He emphasized that he believed that Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, would be quite impartial in making a temporary appointment, such as provided for. But would Mining Ministers who might follow him when the bill was enacted into the Statutes of the Province be just as impartial? "Wouldn't it be better," he suggested, "to leave this matter entirely to the judiciary?"

Premier Ferguson and Mr. McCrea, speaking in reply, pointed out that the matter had been discussed with the Mining Judge, who thought that the amendment sought would prevent delays. All that was sought by the amendment, they emphasized, was to provide a speedy means of dealing with mining problems.

With this explanation the bill was carried.

#### Wolf Bounty Act.

The other measure carried in committee was the amendment to the Wolf Bounty Act of 1924. This bill provides, among other things, that any man claiming the Government bounty must take an affidavit that the wolf for which the bounty is claimed was three months old at the time of its capture. The bill aims primarily at checking a practice that has prevailed to a considerable extent in the North, in recent years, namely, that of nourishing wolf pups along to the three months age, killing them and claiming bounties.

Premier Ferguson, replying to a question of J. W. Widdifield (North Ontario), declared that no representatives of hotelkeepers had waited on the Government in the matter of sale of beer since the last election.

A private bill, calling for an amendment to the Assessment Act, which will compel large business concerns to pay taxes in the city or town in which their chief activities are carried on, irrespective of where the head office of the company is located, was introduced by Russell Nesbitt, K.C. (Conservative, Bracondale). It is alleged that certain attempts have been made in the past on the part of companies to evade taxation by moving their head office to localities outside of Toronto while still operating their plant in the city.

The act at present provides that companies shall be assessed at the place at which their head office is located, and the amendment required by the bill changes this to read that the income of any partnership or incorporated company "shall be assessed at the chief place of business in Ontario of such partnership or incorporated company."

#### Questions of Power.

Under the head of new questions to the Ministry, Hon. W. E. Raney asked for information concerning the amount of power that could be developed by both single-stage and two-stage systems on the St. Lawrence River, west of Cornwall; also the estimated costs of such units. W. G. Medd (Progressive, Huron South) inquired about the Ontario Public School Health Book. F. G. Sandy (Progressive, Victoria South) asked the total amount of fire insurance premiums paid by the Province for the past four years. A. D. McLean (Progressive, Middlesex North) sought information as to the cost of excavation work on the new east wing of the Parliament Buildings; and C. A. Robertson (North Huron), the first Liberal to interrogate the Ministry through this medium, made inquiries regarding Civil Service appointments made by the Government since election day.

#### No Remuneration Fixed

##### For Liquor Controllers

Premier Ferguson made it clear yesterday that members of his new Liquor Control Commission had accepted office with only public service in mind, and with remuneration as a secondary consideration.

"However," said Mr. Ferguson, "you cannot expect men of their calling to give up large industrial and commercial interests at a sacrifice, and that is a situation which probably will have to be met. I intend to take up the question of remuneration with the Commission in the near future."