

Tuesday, March 1st

Proposed Marriage Law Amended Regarding British Clergymen

Premier Ferguson's bill to amend the Ontario Marriage Act passed the committee stage in the Legislature yesterday. The bill, as originally designed, aimed at elimination of any possible repetition of the situation here last summer, when the Bishop of London was not allowed by the existing law of the Province to officiate at the wedding ceremony of his niece. At second reading of the measure, the Prime Minister announced that the amendment proposed to authorize any British clergy-

man to perform marriages in Ontario. Considerable objection was raised at that time by the Opposition, Hon. W. E. Raney, in particular, protesting that the amendment was too "broad" in its power, and that "sharpers" might take advantage of it. Yesterday, it was announced that the measure had been revised and that by terms of the revision all British clergymen residing outside of Canada will now have to get authority for celebrating Ontario marriages from the Provincial Secretary. This alteration to the original text met with the approval of the House.