

PREMIER WITHDRAWS WIDOW-ORPHAN BILL

To Be Given More Careful Consideration During House Recess

INTERFERENCE BY JUDGES

While arguing that the principle of the measure was worthy of support from every side of the House and had been generally approved up and down the country, Premier Ferguson yesterday withdrew his Widows and Orphans' Maintenance Bill in order to give the question more careful consideration during the House recess period and to iron out some of the kinks which have appeared in the bill since it originally was drafted.

Idea of Bill.

The bill was drawn with the idea of offsetting, in effect, arbitrary attempts by disgruntled heads of families to prevent their immediate heirs from receiving any portion of their estates. A few years ago, as the Prime Minister explained yesterday, widows were well protected under the Dower Act, since most estates consisted largely of real estate. Of recent years, he pointed out, there had been a trend toward stocks, bonds, and similar personal property, which do not come within the provisions of the Dower Act. The consequence has been that many widows and orphans have been stripped of some of the protection which formerly was theirs.

The bill as first planned would have overcome this situation and restored the widows' rights, but on close examination, said Mr. Ferguson, it was found that it interfered too greatly with the inherent right of the testator to dispose of his property as he wished. Some medium position between this interference and the principle of greater protection would have to be found, he said, before the measure was brought in next session.

Conflicting Decisions.

Furthermore, said the Premier, the original draft provided for interference by County Court Judges in cases where heirs-at-law disputed the will of a testator. It had occurred to him since the bill came into the House that there were so many County Court Judges in the Province that a vast mass of conflicting decisions might be built up; so when the bill next comes before the Assembly, Superior Court Judges will likely be entrusted with this work.

CO-OPERATIVE BANKING DISCUSSED IN HOUSE

Belanger Urges Proclamation of Drury Regulating Law

A plea that the Government proclaim legislation put on the statute books by the Drury Government to regulate and control co-operative banking organizations was made in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell).

The House in Committee was considering estimates involving the supervision of loan corporations. Mr. Belanger referred to the old legislation to check up and get bond guarantees from co-operative banks. Such organizations administered loans through a trustee. Mr. Belanger did not criticize their activity or the work of mutual benefit societies in making loans to shareholders, but rather felt that if the act was proclaimed it would give them such a status that their work could be extended. The legislation, said he, did not interfere with the Bank Act.

Premier Ferguson, suggesting that the matter might come under Dominion jurisdiction, promised to look into it.

Premier Hopes for Alberta Office To Assist in Distribution of Coal

Hope that the Alberta Government would create an organization and establish an office in Ontario which would serve not only as a publicity bureau but assist in the distribution of Alberta coal in this Province was voiced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Premier Ferguson.

The Prime Minister, questioned during consideration of the estimates on a \$5,000 salary item, stated that it was for Fuel Controller Ellis. Mr. Ellis

was aiding in providing standard quality Alberta coal for Ontario fires.

For, said the Premier, since the Dominion Railway Board had announced rates, the Ontario Government was going to assist in making the coal available for Ontarians. He recalled that some shipments of inferior Alberta coal had come into the Province, and so the fuel got a bad name. Now it was planned to have a board fix standards and qualities. He hoped that the railways would carry only such coal as was passed by the board, thus further guaranteeing quality for the consumer.

DO CIVIL SERVANTS "MIX IN POLITICS"?

Liberal Leader Queries Item for Education Department

PREMIER'S STRONG VIEWS

The question of civil servants "mixing up in politics" was raised in the Legislature yesterday when the House was in committee on the main estimates.

Liberal Leader Sinclair, questioning an item of \$1,800 for the Education Department, was told that this was the salary of Constance Boulton. He recollected often seeing her name in the press. And he suggested that the Government "keep her busy" so that she would not have too much spare time on her hands and so wander into the political arena.

Premier Ferguson stated that he had "just as strong views" on the subject of civil servants being politicians, and that he'd even told one member of the service that such action would mean loss of the job.

"What about the Winnipeg convention?" queried Edmond Proulx (Liberal, Prescott).

"There weren't any there," replied the Premier. "It was said that one member of the service was there, but I looked it up and at that time that member was not in the service."

NIXON ARGUES USE OF LOCAL ATTORNEYS

Attorney-General Says "Specials" Are Often Required

A vote in the main estimates for special Crown prosecutors drew from Hon. H. C. Nixon, Progressive member for Brant, the advice, in the House yesterday, that local Crown Attorneys should be used wherever possible in all cases—and in the great majority of minor cases.

Mr. Nixon reiterated the oft-heard argument that "outsiders" coming in are not familiar with the circumstances of the case or conditions in the locality, and often cannot do themselves or the Crown justice.

Attorney-General Price defended the policy of his department, saying there were many times when "specials" were required, and citing a number of cases in which, he claimed, his policy and his judgment had been upheld by these "specials."

WILL DO 'SOMETHING' ANENT OFFICIALS' PAY

Attorney-General Price to Investigate Fee of Crown Employees

Attorney-General Price told the Legislature yesterday that during the House's recess period he proposed investigating thoroughly the fee system as applying throughout the Province to Crown officials, with a view to "doing something" at next session for any cases of "underpaid."

Col. Price's intimation came in reply to questions from D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey), who cited the story of a Sheriff who believed himself entitled to more money than he was getting for the discharge of his duties.

The Attorney-General said that, following last session, he had asked for reports on the situation, generally speaking, but that these reports had come in too late for any action during the current session.

"During the recess," he said, "I propose to go into the question thoroughly and ascertain if there is any discrimination in these offices."

\$14,692,108 VOTED IN MAIN ESTIMATES

House to Consider Labor, Provincial Treasurer and Secretary

Main estimates to the total of \$14,692,108 were approved yesterday by the Legislature sitting in Committee of Supply.

Completing the estimates of the Attorney-General's Department, which had been only partially examined on Tuesday, the House approved votes of \$49,925 for the Insurance Department; \$7,900,189 for Education; \$2,547,450 for Lands and Forests; \$499,725 for Northern Development; \$360,600 for Mines; \$1,262,165 for Public Works; \$52,650 for the Game and Fisheries Department; \$562,339 for Highways, and \$458,350 out of a total of \$686,450 required for the Health Department.

On Tuesday the House had voted the money needed by the Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Premier's Department, Legislation, Agriculture and part of the Attorney-General's Department. Completion today of the Health estimates will only be a matter of minutes, and then the House will only have to consider votes for Labor, Provincial Treasurer, and Provincial Secretary.