

GOVERNMENT BILLS APPROVED BY HOUSE

Amendment to Local Improvement Act Given Second Reading

EXPLAINED BY McBRIEN

Four Government bills were approved by the Committee of the Whole at yesterday's session of the Legislature, which lasted less than an hour. No discussion was occasioned by any of them, and this business, together with giving second reading to a City of Toronto bill, and answers to questions on the order paper by several of the Ministers, was all that was accomplished.

The bills which were approved in the committee included the amendment to the Deserted Wives and Children's Maintenance Act, which is intended to make clear what constitutes cruelty under the act. At present a wife may be deemed deserted if she has left her home because of cruelty. The amendment defines cruelty as "a reasonable apprehension of bodily injury, or injury to health, without proof of actual personal violence, which renders the home an unfit place for either wife or child."

Another is the amendment to the Executions Act, which stipulates that in case of seizure of a farmer's goods for debt he may retain a team of horses and harness. The third was a bill amending the Long Point Park Act, which allows the Government to add some 140 acres to the park, which is situated off Port Rowan, and which now comprises some 400 acres. The last bill to receive the endorsement of the committee was that to amend the Northern Development Act. It would provide that a settler, who has taken up land formerly settled and abandoned, does not have to shoulder the burden of debts the first settler owes to the Government. But it does not relieve the original land holder of his obligations.

Second reading was given to a bill to amend the Local Improvement Act to clarify a clause passed in 1931. F. G. McBrien (Conservative, Brockton), who spoke to the bill, which concerned the City of Toronto, explained that the Court of Revision now had power to rectify faulty assessments in connection with locals on lanes. But it did not allow the court to exempt this excess area where it was found that an excess area had been assessed.

E. F. Singer (Conservative, St. Andrews) introduced another bill to amend the Assessment Act, and it was given first reading without discussion. It provides, he stated, that a man working in one municipality and living in another, may be assessed where he works.

SERIES OF QUERIES REFER TO MEIGHEN

Progressive Asks His Connection With Investments Company

SUDBURY POWER TOTAL?

Has Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, Hydro Commissioner, any connection with private companies which held bonds of the Ontario Power Service Corporation, recently taken over by the Government in the Abitibi deal? is an inquiry placed on the order paper of the Legislature yesterday by D. J. Taylor (Progressive, Grey North).

His questions in this connection are as follows: "Is Hydro Commissioner Right Hon. Arthur Meighen Chairman or President of the Canadian General Investments Ltd., or has he been within the last year?"

"Did this company hold any of the bonds of the Ontario Power Service Corporation Ltd. prior to, at the time, or subsequent to, negotiations for the taking over by the Government and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of the partially completed development on the Abitibi? If so, what was the amount of the bonds so held?"

"Did this company, or any of its predecessors, First, Second, Third or Fourth General Investment Trust Ltd., hold bonds of the Ontario Power Service Corporation Ltd. while the Hydro had a contract to take power from the Power Service Corporation Ltd.? If so, what was the amount so held?" was Mr. Taylor's final question.

Other questions to be placed on the order paper included one from W. J. MacKay (Liberal, Bruce South), who wants to know if the salaries of normal school teachers have been reduced during the past three years; and, if so, by what amount.

Dr. G. A. McQuibban (Liberal, Wellington North) is asking what amount of power has been supplied by the Hydro during the past three years to the Sudbury mining area, and what amount has been supplied by the Ontario Power Service Corporation; while L. J. Simpson (Liberal, Simcoe Centre) inquires as to the cost of the Fish and Game Committee, appointed in 1931, and what position Edward Chauvin of Noelville holds in the Civil Service. Were any Government funds used in the erection of the Midland artificial ice rink, J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry) asks; and, if so, to what amount?

GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH DEPUTATION

Same End Desired in Cur- tailing Liquor's Effect, Says Price

After hearing a deputation of the Ontario Prohibition Union of nearly 1,000 strong at Queen's Park yesterday morning, Attorney-General W. H. Price told the group that the Government was with them "in curtailing the effect of liquor." Colonel Price said: "There is difference of opinion among honest people as to how this may be brought about; yet the same end is desired."

The Attorney-General, who is heading the Government in the absence of Mr. Henry, assured the deputation that he would lay the proposals before the Premier. Petitions signed by more than 105,000 were presented. Hon. George Chaffies, Hon. J. D. Monteith and Hon. W. G. Martin were with Colonel Price as he received the group in the main foyer of the Parliament Buildings.

Rev. A. J. Irwin and R. S. Rodd, respectively Secretary and President of the union, both spoke of the effect of liquor on the social standing of the community, and averred that the taxes received from its sale were more than offset by the demoralizing result. If the sale of liquor was stopped, the general benefit to the people of the Province would bring about an economic condition which would ultimately pay more in dollars and cents to the Government coffers, it was claimed.