

CHANGES IN AGES OF SCHOOL PUPILS IS SOUGHT IN BILL

**Sinclair Favors Setting New
Limits of 6 and 15
Years**

OPENS FREE DISCUSSION

Children may not attend school until the age of 6, instead of the minimum age of 5, as at present, and may leave school at the age of 15, where the adolescent age is now 16, if bills being brought forward by Liberal House Leader Sinclair pass the Ontario Legislature. The possibility of changed statutes is contained in notices of motions presented yesterday by Mr. Sinclair, who seeks amendments to the Public School Act; the Adolescent and School Attendance Act, and the High Schools Act. Changes in the last-noted statute would provide that a fee be charged those pupils, known as repeaters, who fail in final examinations and must continue at high school another year or more.

There has been a demand from several school boards throughout the Province for changes in the age limits, Mr. Sinclair explained to The Globe. It was felt on one hand that children started to school at too tender an age, and, on the other, were forced to remain in school a year longer than was necessary to complete their education.

The Liberal Leader added that his bills would provide for a free discussion of the age-limit problem which has vexed many of the educational authorities.

Of course, in changing the adolescent age limit from 16 to 15 years it would not mean that pupils would be forced to leave school when they arrived at the new age limit. There was nothing to prevent them from continuing on, say to the age of 21; the change merely provided that they must continue until they were 15, excepting where otherwise provided in exceptions under the act.

U. OF T. CONSTRUCTION \$989,216 FOR 1931-32

\$795,940 of This Capital Amount From Founda- tion Funds

Total capital construction cost for University of Toronto buildings in the years of 1931 and 1932 was stated in the Ontario Legislature yesterday as \$989,216. The information came from Attorney-General Price, in answer to an inquiry of C. A. Robertson (Liberal, Huron North). A feature of the reply brought out the fact that of the expended amount \$795,940 was provided from various foundation funds. The E. C. Whitney bequest provided \$490,138; the Rockefeller Foundation \$188,732, and the Massey Foundation and Hart House Fund \$117,070.

Hon. Leopold Macaulay answered J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry) to the effect that the cost of removing snow from Highway No. 2, Windsor, to the Eastern Ontario end was \$15,484 during the present winter. The contract was let on a day labor basis, and the firms paid only when there was snow to remove, with the exception that certain allowances were made when the contractors had to stand by.

"They would have to stand by with umbrellas these days," shot back Liberal House Leader Sinclair.

CHORUS OF DISSENT KILLS TWEED BILL IN ONTARIO HOUSE

**Would Change Qualifications
for Nominees to Muni-
cipal Offices**

MATTRESSES DISCUSSED

Qualifications for candidates seeking municipal office are to remain as at present, the Legislature decided yesterday in defeating, without a vote, the bill sponsored by S. C. Tweed (Liberal, Waterloo North) which would have rendered it necessary for such candidates to have an income or property assessment of \$500 in cities or towns and \$300 in villages or townships. To Earl Hutchinson, the single Labor member of the House, must go the main credit for the disposal of the bill in this manner.

After Mr. Tweed had explained the purpose of the bill, Hon. William Finlayson, speaking for the Government, admitted there might be some merit to it in principle, but took issue with the manner in which the clauses were framed. Mr. Hutchinson then rose, and, after telling how it would bar certain worthy citizens from aspiring to office, claimed that its passage would provide ammunition for agitators. When the bill was put for its second reading, it was lost in a chorus of dissent.

To Restore Qualifications.

Mr. Tweed explained that the bill was intended to restore property qualifications in effect about a decade ago, and persons holding municipal

office would have some property and stake in the municipality.

Mr. Finlayson agreed that at one time a property qualification was necessary, but it was then changed that residence was sufficient. But the way the bill was framed, he said, removed the provision that a person being a taxpayer in the municipality, but living within five miles from its border, might qualify. Mr. Tweed stated that this was not his intention.

"There is a good deal to be said for the principle of this bill," stated the Minister of Lands and Forests. "But my friend does not want to recognize the tenant class. This would go back to the qualifications of prior to 1931."

Seen As Direct Slap.

"This bill should be killed here," said Mr. Hutchinson. "It should not go any further. In a railroad town many officials move in, but they do not know how long they will be able to stay. They serve on Hospital and Library Boards, but this would prevent them from sitting on Councils because they do not own property. I am in favor of prohibiting tenants who have not paid their rent from holding office, but not those who have paid it. This bill is a direct slap at the better class of tenant."

"It is not a good thing to stir up any more agitation, and I believe this would throw a contentious question into the hands of the agitators," he concluded.

F. W. Wilson (Conservative, Windsor East) agreed that it would have a disturbing effect, and, in spite of the fact that Mr. Tweed said it had the endorsement of some thirty municipalities, it was summarily defeated.

Second-Hand Mattresses.

The other bill which occasioned most discussion was that, also sponsored by Mr. Tweed, which would prohibit the use of second-hand mattresses or bedding material from hospitals or sanatoriums in the making of new mattresses, and compel any new mattresses made with second-hand material from other sources to be so labelled.

"With the low cost of new material it should not be necessary to use old mattresses. It is a very filthy practice," said Mr. Tweed.

"Would not it be possible to do this by departmental regulation?" asked George Shields (Conservative, Woodbine).

"The local Boards of Health have power," replied Hon. J. M. Robb, Minister of Health.

"I have received a letter from the Local Council of Women on this matter," said E. F. Singer (Conservative, St. Andrews). "I am in favor of the bill in principle. The women feel that when they buy mattresses they are buying a blind article. They can't open it to see what is in it. This is a move in the right direction."

"It strikes me that the bill is rather inconsistent," stated Dr. Robb. "The first clause says that no mattresses from hospitals or institutions be used, and the second says that where second-hand material is used, then it must be stamped. The question arises as to what is second-hand material. It is true that when we see an old mattress going down the street it gives us a feeling of abhorrence. But I maintain the ones from the hospitals, if they are injurious to health or are unsanitary, should not be in the hospital."

No Worse From Hospitals.

"In hospitals, one patient follows another with all kinds of diseases. But the hospitals know how to take care of the mattresses. I maintain those from hospitals are not any worse than those from homes."

Investigation in the State of New York had shown that such legislation was very difficult to enforce, and in no case had there been a conviction from a public health standpoint.

"The Minister of Health approaches it from a legal rather than the point of view one might expect, that of health," stated W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal House Leader. "He admits that it is not a very nice thing to think of, but relies on the bacteriologist. I do not imagine any one of them chased up an old mattress with germs to see if all were eliminated."

After considerable discussion, Dr. Robb said Mr. Sinclair was arguing from a health standpoint.

Is Sent to Committee.

There was considerable difference of opinion, both as to the bill and the situation the bill was intended to correct, pointed out Attorney-General Price. "Twice before this bill has been brought into the House, and both times it has been found impossible to translate it into legislation," he said. "While, in a way, I favor the bill in principle, it goes too far. I think it should go to the committee for consideration." And so it went to the committee.

Second reading was given to a City of Toronto bill, introduced by E. F. Singer, to amend the Assessment Act so that persons residing outside of Ontario, who have to pay income tax, would have to pay the tax in the municipality where it was earned. Mr. Singer said this was to take care of an omission in the present act, which did not stipulate where such taxes would be paid. It was sent to the Municipal Committee. "Rather a delicate matter," said Mr. Finlayson.

Second reading was also given to another City of Toronto bill sponsored by Fred McBrien (Conservative, Bracondale). At present, on local improvements in connection with lanes, those who have side drives and would not have to contribute to the cost of the lanes are not considered in the petitions for or against the lane. Chief Justice Rose had recently ruled that they were interested parties, as some of their property might have to be taken, and their names must be considered. This bill also will go to the committee.