

April 8.

INJUSTICES CLAIMED AS U.F.O. MEMBER WITHDRAWS BILL

Price Says Arguments Con- sidered in Drawing Up Moratorium

PETITION SIGNED BY 6,000

Declaring that the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Bill went as far as it was advisable to go with respect to mortgages, Attorney-General W. H. Price, speaking on behalf of the Government, was responsible yesterday in the Legislature for the withdrawal of a bill designed to protect the equities of purchasers of farm and residence properties in the event of foreclosure.

Farquhar Oliver (U.F.O., Grey South), the sponsor of the bill, withdrew it in face of Government opposition. He had a petition signed by some 6,000 persons from all sections of the Province favoring such legislation, and explained that it had been approved by the U.F.O. convention. The bill provided that, where foreclosure proceedings were being taken in cases where one-third of the purchase price had been paid, the case could be taken before a Judge, who could decide as to the protection of the purchaser's equity.

Instances of Injustice.

"There are instances of injustice, and the way is open for further injustice, in the present system," said Mr. Oliver. "I know of two cases in my own constituency where three-fourths of the purchase price had been paid in each case. They could not keep up the payments, and lost the money they had put into the property and the property as well. Whether this bill is accepted now or not, it will not be very long until legislation of this kind is on the statutes. It is not fair that the mortgagors should take the property back and one-half or two-thirds of the purchase price as well."

While the Moratorium Act did help, and while there was not much danger at present of foreclosure proceedings on farms, as soon as conditions improved there would be plenty, and such legislation was necessary, he said. "And I believe that times will get better just as soon as we have a change of Government, and a few other adjustments are made," he said.

"Long before that," interjected Hon. Charles McCrea, with a smile.

Fears for Veterans.

F. W. Elliott (Liberal, Huron North) said that many returned soldiers had purchased farms after the

war, and now they had about 60 per cent. paid on them. As soon as the moratorium was lifted, he feared, they would lose them.

Wilfrid Heighington (Conservative, St. David's) was opposed to any further invasion of the normal procedure in connection with mortgages.

The matters referred to by Mr. Oliver had been taken up by the law officers when they were framing the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Bill, said Colonel Price. But the Legislature could not stop interest charges, taxes and other carrying charges rolling up, and if anything of a permanent nature was done, then the mortgagor would be in a worse plight than ever, in view of the ever-increasing charges. Every reasonable measure had been taken in the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Bill, he said.

"What we need today is not to go any further than we have done. You can see how bad this sort of thing is. Trust and mortgage companies loaned moneys on farms in the West, and in some cases these amounts loaned have been cut down. It works back and attacks the savings of people who have put money into these loans," he explained. Some one had to carry the farms, and if the purchaser did not, then it meant that the mortgagee had, or a transferring of the liability. And if further steps were taken there would be difficulty in getting any one to lend money.

In view of these remarks, Mr. Oliver withdrew it.

An amendment to the Mothers' Allowances Act, so as to provide for the reduction of the numbers of members on the board, was given second reading. Hon. W. G. Martin, Minister of Public Welfare, stated that, while the numbers of beneficiaries had increased about four times during the past decade, the administration costs had increased only \$4,000 in the same period. But the bill provided for a reduction of the overhead costs, he said.

A bill amending the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act was also given second reading. It was to overcome a court decision that a person could not convey a title of a property to himself. And occasionally some one acted as trustee, and had to convey the property to himself. Other Government bills to receive second reading were an act to amend the Mercantile Law Amendment Act, and an amendment to the Insurance Act.

Eight private bills were also given their second reading, the most important of these being the act respecting hairdressers and barbers. In its amended form this bill provides for separate boards to be set up for the barbers and the hairdressers, and the matter is optional with the members of the two trades. The separate boards are to work under one council.

The House also approved of the supplementary appropriations for the various departments. The Hydro-Electric Power Commission gets the largest amount, with \$1,225,000; the

Works Department, \$732,000; the Health Department, \$483,655; and the Agricultural Department, \$125,774.

"ANTIQUE" TABLES BEFORE COMMITTEE

Purchase for Speaker's Re- ception Room Approved by Premier

"Antique" furniture, estimated to be about 80 years old, and consisting of three rosewood and mahogany tables, bought for the Speaker's reception room in September, 1931, for the sum of \$650, were the subject of investigation at the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature yesterday. It was disclosed that Premier Henry had approved the purchase and signed the voucher, and that Hon. J. D. Monteith, Minister of Public Works, under whose department the furnishings of Government Buildings come, and Speaker T. A. Kidd, had nothing to do with it.

George Hogarth, Deputy Minister of Public Works, told the committee that the tables were purchased from B. M. and T. Jenkins, antique dealers, on the suggestion of the Premier. "The Speaker's reception room is used a great deal for receiving distinguished visitors and has been furnished very sparsely," explained Mr. Hogarth.

"Why, we have even received the Prince of Wales in it," observed Hon. William Finlayson.

"Surely not since these tables were put in," returned Hon. Harry C. Nixon.

While Mr. Hogarth thought the tables were 50 or 60 years old, H. P. Rickard, General Manager of the Jenkins firm, said that they had been made by Jacques and Hay, about 1850. As applied in America, antique furniture was not technically "antique" unless it was made prior to 1830. "The price was very reasonable and the purchase exceptionally good. They could not be produced today because the wood is not available," he stated.