

## CITY GOVERNMENT BILL DROPPED BY COMMITTEE

**Extension of Voting Privileges of Blind in Municipal Elections Approved — Absentee Clause Deleted**

Legislation by which Argue Martin (Conservative, Hamilton West) had proposed to permit a general reconstruction of city government, was consigned to the scrapheap in company with other measures at a meeting of the Municipal Law Committee in Queen's Park yesterday. Although Mr. Martin's enactment was described by Hon. William Finlayson, Chairman of the committee, as "a very interesting bill," comment was unanimously hostile or humorous, and the measure was dropped with the suggestion that Mr. Martin should be given further opportunity to educate the public.

The bill, which would permit four-year terms for Aldermen, biennial elections, continuity of Council, and election of Mayor and Board of Control from and by the Aldermen, was described by F. G. McBrien (Conservative, Brockton) as a "rehash" of English and some American law. Mr. McBrien objected to the measure as inimical to Legislative simplicity and uniformity. The clause prohibiting Aldermen to run for a re-election aroused comment, Mr. Martin repeating his argument that the pressure of a coming election affected Aldermanic action, and other members objecting that such a feature would force good men out of office.

The legislation affecting police villages and designed to relieve communities situated in more than one township or county, was dropped because of its general application. Mr. Finlayson summed up the opinion of the committee as opposed to a change involving 180 police villages because of one village's difficulties, but suggested future solution possibly by means of a private bill.

Extension of the voting privileges of the blind in municipal elections was sponsored by J. P. Moore (Conservative, London North) and received approval. The committee objected strenuously to Mr. Moore's suggested legislation extending the right of absentee voting to the general public. Mr. Finlayson pointed out that the privilege was open to abuse and other members mentioned its possible use as political campaign material. The clauses of Mr. Moore's bill, transferring the present regulation giving the right to railwaymen and certain commercial travellers to the Municipal Act, was carried, but the extension clauses were dropped.

Pending further reactions from the municipalities the proposed legislation setting a maximum weighing-machine fee on coal and coke loads was carried over.

## BATTLE IN HOUSE LIKELY ON WIDENING OF AVENUE ROAD

**Legislation Goes to Committee Without Petition, Now Required**

**INTRODUCED BY LYONS**

The Avenue Road widening, north of St. Clair Avenue, will come up for consideration today before the Municipal Law Committee of the Ontario Legislature. The legislation goes to the committee without the petition required under the present law. The bill, allegedly presented more or less under cover, was introduced by Hon. James Lyons, Conservative member for Sault Ste. Marie. There was no suggestion made as to why the bill was not introduced by a Toronto member, rather than by the Northerner.

Protest against the work was accepted by the Municipal Board, after backing had been given to the objection by Avenue Road residents who included Commissioner G. Howard Ferguson. The claim that the widening should be undertaken "on petition only," finds no response in the Lyons bill, since that phrase is removed.

It is explained in the bill which Mr. Lyons will introduce that "it may be more economical to widen the pavement at the time when the original pavement is renewed. Such work may be unwisely prevented by objections which are unreasonable if a petition is requisite."

## NEW LEGISLATION SEQUELS COMPLAINT OF CAMP WORKERS

**Lumber Camp Conditions to Be Studied—More Intervention**

**MINISTER IS "SHOCKED"**

A Provincial investigation into Ontario lumber camp conditions is promised. It is coming a little late in the day to redress alleged wrongs of the current season.

Following the publication in yesterday's Globe of complaints from Lanark regarding labor conditions and the treatment of men employed in certain camps, Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Forests, yesterday stated that a bill would be introduced shortly bearing on the situation.

It will make provision for a Government investigation to study conditions pertaining to camps in Northern Ontario, he said.

He admitted that the proposed measure would be ineffective in so far as redressing abuses that may have occurred during the past season, suggesting that the recourse for broken contracts was through the courts.

Subsequently, in the course of discussing a bill in the Legislature, Mr. Finlayson remarked that changing conditions required more and more Government intervention in matters hitherto regarded as private commerce. He instanced the shock he had felt in the course of personal investigation of lumber camp conditions last fall, and the forthcoming legislation which that shock had produced.

**Gets \$1,750 Allowance  
After Eleven Years' Service**

In a Government answer to a Liberal question tabled during the session of the Legislature yesterday the details of an individual superannuation case were disclosed. The answer, made in reply to a query from W. J. Bragg (Liberal, Durham), stated that F. E. Titus entered the Government service in 1920, receiving a salary of \$3,500 while in the service. Mr. Titus went into retirement in 1931, and receives superannuation or a retiring allowance of \$1,750 a year.

## GOVERNMENT TO AID TOBACCO INDUSTRY

**Kennedy Introduces Amendment to Co-operative Marketing Loans Act**

Substantial assistance to the tobacco industry will be given by the Provincial Government through an amendment to the Co-operative Marketing Loans Act, introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture. The act permits Provincial guarantee of loans to co-operative organizations in cases where no direct loan from the Provincial Treasury is required.

The understanding is that the act will permit the Western Ontario tobacco co-operative to hold the crop for better prices, instead of flooding the market in the manner which tumbled quotations to a ridiculous level last year. A major complaint of the growers is that the huge stocks purchased by manufacturers when the market is down are a factor in depressing prices during subsequent years. If the farmer were not forced to sell, the situation, it is considered, would not arise.

**BILLS IN LEGISLATURE  
GET SECOND READING**

**Sinclair Drops Divorce Measure on Assurance by Price**

A list of bills, from private members and from the Government, received second reading late in yesterday's session of the Legislature. From Attorney-General Price came the amendment to the Pawnbrokers' Act, prohibiting pledging of medals and decorations; the amendment to the Trustee Act, bringing Ontario usage into conformity with that in Britain; and the amendment to the Conveyancing Act, relative to joint tenancies. From Premier Henry, a bill respecting the Windsor-Walkerville Vocational School, correcting an error made thirteen years ago, and only recently discovered; from H. A. Clarke (Conservative, Brockville), providing lower assessments on residences which contain business or professional offices; from S. J. Wilson (Conservative, Lincoln), permitting cities to establish separate consolidated debt interest accounts, and all municipalities to deposit their sinking funds in single accounts; and from D. Paul Munro (Liberal, Wellington South), transferring appeals in certain assessment cases from the Municipal Board to the courts.

W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C. (Liberal, Ontario South), withdrew, on Government suggestion, his amendment to the Judicature Act restricting divorce actions to the county in which one of the litigants had established reference. Attorney-General Price assured him that amendments to the rules of practice would eliminate the difficulty of which he complained.