

DIVISION COURTS TO BE REGULATED

County Boards Eliminated

QUEEN'S PARK is to assume greater control over the machinery of Division Courts. Amendments to that effect featured half-a-dozen "lawyers' bills" brought down yesterday by Attorney-General Hon. Arthur Roebuck.

Powers Transferred.

The Attorney-General proposes to eliminate the boards under the Division Courts Act in each county and to transfer the power to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The same agency will have power to regulate the holding of courts, and will be given powers now held by the Boards of County Judges.

Amendments to the Justices of the Peace Act carry out some of Mr. Roebuck's intentions announced last year. One amendment provides that a J.P. in receipt of salary will not be entitled to fees under the act; another dispenses with the landed estate qualification; and a third permits Justices to be appointed for an area comprising more than one county. A solicitor—who is not practicing as such—may be permitted to act as a Justice.

The Attorney-General's amendment to the County Courts Act simplifies the taking of an appeal to the Appellate Division. A Bill of Sale and Chattel Mortgages amendment definitely "prescribes the time within which the next following statement of renewal must be registered."

Payments Redirected.

Amendment to the Crown Witness Act, sought in a bill also introduced by the Attorney-General, states that one-third of the amount paid to witnesses under the act shall be paid to the County Treasurer out of the consolidated revenue fund if such payment is approved by the County Board of Audit. In the past, it was explained in the bill, some municipalities have contended that the Government's portion of the expenses should be paid to the municipalities, but the amendment directs payment to the County Treasurer.

Replying to a question from Wilfrid Heighington, Conservative, the Attorney-General, in explaining the proposed amendment to the Justices of the Peace Act, stated there are approximately 350 such officers in Ontario. Not all are paid, but a number receive \$100 and \$150 annually, the latter amount applying in Northern Ontario centres.

"Is there any politics in their appointment?" asked the Hon. Leopold Macaulay.

"None," the Attorney-General answered. "In the administration of justice there is no politics."

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

Hepburn Wants "Gallery" to Enjoy Debates

THOSE who appear in the visitors' galleries of this Chamber are welcome. The days of reactionary Toryism are past.

This was the attitude of Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn, voiced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday, following a suggestion from Wilfrid Heighington, Conservative, that the dignity of proceedings was being impaired by applause from the galleries.

Just before adjournment yesterday Mr. Heighington brought the matter up.

"I have no desire to detract from their enjoyment," he said, "but I feel that the Speaker should ask that the applause should be confined to members of the House."

It was at this point the Premier expressed himself, and both members and visitors in the galleries roundly applauded.

"The Prime Minister should not put words in my mouth," Mr. Heighington objected. "I did not suggest that visitors are not welcome—they certainly are. But I did feel that the dignity of the House would be better upheld if the applause were confined to members."

Change Proposed In Adoption Act

Change in the Christian or given name of an adopted child, at the discretion of a Judge, is provided for in an amendment to the Adoption Act, introduced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by the Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck, Attorney-General. In the past, it was pointed out, there has been some doubt of the power of the court in this respect, and the proposed amendment is designed to clarify the situation.

CHANGE OF NAME ASKED.

First reading was given in the Ontario Legislature yesterday to a bill from W. D. Black (Conservative, Addington) for changing the name of his riding to Addington-Frontenac. He pointed out that under redistribution most of the old riding of Frontenac had been included in Addington and he thought the name of the riding should signify this.