

# Band Bill Cultural Move, Explains Soldier-Sponsor

## Colonel Hunter Pleads for Steadier Municipal Support of Music as Investment

**C**OLONEL F. FRASER HUNTER—Toronto Liberal member, veteran Indian Army officer, and well-known raconteur—believes in the diplomatic hand. He used it yesterday to pilot his band bill through second reading at Queen's Park.

### Fixed Money Vote.

The "cultural amendment," as Colonel Hunter calls it, would provide for a steadier support of municipal music by transferring a fixed money vote to the ratepayers.

And Ontario's Legislature, Colonel Hunter determined yesterday, should



Col. Hunter.

know just what a band was before it voted on his bill. It might include cornets, saxophones, flutes, trombones, euphoniums, and bassoons.

"I have been astounded," said Colonel Hunter, "by the opportunity of members of this House to blow their

own horns. I don't think such privileges should be confined to an honorable House like this."

For the information of the "meticulously" legal minds, a band was "a collection of various instruments productive of music." The member for St. Patrick indulged in a moment of etymology and traced the word to beyond the French. Louis XIV. had boasted a band and so had Charles II. In the thirteenth century guilds of musicians roamed the country.

### History Traced.

"This amendment is in line with history," said the Toronto member. "When the first Scots came to Nova Scotia, the kilts and pipes scared away all the Indians." As for Ontario, it at current date, boasted 427 bands—"good, bad, and indifferent."

Further, Colonel Hunter argued that his bill was non-partisan. "Why," he asked, "should not the honorable member for Kingston (Colonel T. A. Kidd) on the 12th of July have his fife and drum band—or Scotch communities that peculiar instrument known as the bagpipe?"

In serious vein the Toronto member said that his bill aimed at ensuring continuity in the development of local bands. "A good band in any town gives great pleasure to the citizenry," he pointed out. Admitting that a tax was involved, he said that it was a very small one, and it was an investment in cultural values. It was good to give youth something besides unemployment figures.

Arthur Ellis (Conservative, Ottawa South) took serious issue with the bill on the ground that "it was the most cumbersome, involved piece of municipal machinery I ever heard of." A clause requiring a petition by 10 per cent. of the ratepayers was attacked.

### Humor Provoked.

"Could such a petition be obtained in Toronto?" he queried.

"I could get you 10 per cent. or 20 per cent. of the citizens of Toronto on any petition you could name," said Hon. Harry C. Nixon, amid laughter.

Wilfrid Heighington treated the measure in lighter vein and quoted a bit from a Gilbert and Sullivan opera.

"Would it be in order to sing it?" said Colonel Hunter.

"Some other time," promised Mr. Heighington.

"We suffer enough in this House," Premier Hepburn observed.

The bill now goes to committee.