

April 13

Party Lines Break On Municipal Bill

Opposition Leader Expresses Heartly Approval of Measure Providing for Check-Up on Debenture Issues by Municipalities

PARTY labels went "haywire" in yesterday's Legislature when former Premier Henry commended the principle of the Government bill which would require Municipal Board approval of any municipality's debenture issues.

Legislation Long Needed.

"To my mind this legislation has long been needed," said the Conservative Leader after Hon. David Croll had described his act as providing for the presentation of all capital expenditures to the Municipal Board.

The situation became more involved when Liberal members made pointed suggestions and the Conservative "twins," Arthur Ellis and Wilfrid Heighington, split on the legislation's merits.

"A statutory admission that democracy has failed," said Mr. Heighington. "This legislation says the people are not to be trusted. It plainly holds that those whom the people elect to office in the municipal sphere are so spineless and inept that we must have their actions reviewed by the 'sea-green incorruptible,' the worthy gentlemen composing the board."

A Progressive Step.

Mr. Ellis reminded the House of municipalities going over the heads of the ratepayers and coming to the Legislature for special legislation for spending money without the consent of the ratepayers. "The Municipal Board should deal with applications of that kind. A progressive step," he said, as he disagreed with his desk-mate.

Mr. Croll did not detail the clauses of the bill, stating that proposed capital expenditures might be presented to the board, perhaps after a vote by the municipality and perhaps before. "This has some limitations," he maintained.

Strain Tries Tempers As Long Night Drags On

One man twiddled his notes in his hand and addressed forty who slumped back sleepily in their chairs. An occasional question would break into the one-man argument—at intervals five or six tried to get into the debate until the Speaker or the House sharply called for order.

So the Ontario Legislature went through its early morning travail—third of the week—at 1, 2, 3 and 4 o'clock yesterday morning.

A Tilley-Slaght fight temporarily enlivened continual droning of bills through committee and second reading. Conservatives lashed at the Government when debate on the liquor bill was limited and the amendments pushed through. "Dogs or no dogs" were on the scene at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Up in the Speaker's Gallery a single young lady propped her chin on a white gauntlet. A party of three

came in in evening dress—white fur cape and dazzling shirt fronts.

A pea-shooter and an alarm clock made their appearance on the floor of the House. Bitterly tired Conservatives protested the absence of the Premier.

"The Prime Minister says he can take it. He takes it on a feather bed." In walked the Premier and four Ministers.

The strain brought some of the strongest charges of the session and the press gallery let them pass. "The last car is ready for the Eglinton barns," Wilfrid Heighington told Chairman of the Committee, Harold Kirby.

"Carried; carried," the Government benches repeated and repeated, while Mr. Heighington croaked an occasional sepulchral "Lost."

The Government ran out of bills at some time about 4 o'clock and the House adjourned.