

Toronto Members Seek Amendments To Municipal Act

Florists, Confectioners, Private Schools, Police Board Covered by Flood of Bills

TORONTO" bills got started through the Legislature yesterday amid much legislative gaiety.

Municipal Act Amendments.

The bulk of the bills backed this year by the city fathers are amendments to the Municipal Act. According to custom, they were introduced yesterday by private Toronto members, who will later inherit the job of defending them when they strike rough going in second reading.

A few minutes after prayers, Mr. Speaker N. O. Hipel let the flood loose when he called for the introduction of bills.

Ian Strachan, Toronto Liberal M.P.P., asked permission to introduce an act amending the Municipal Act giving the city power to choose which Judge and Magistrate sit on the Police Commission.

Mr. Speaker and the Clerk of the House put the bill through first reading.

Mr. Strachan begged leave to introduce another bill, to amend the Municipal Act, giving the City Council the right to license florists.

Harold Kirby, Liberal Whip, and Colonel Fraser Hunter were on their feet with more bills ready. The Colonel retired in Mr. Kirby's favor. Mr. Kirby introduced a Forest Hill bill. The Colonel popped up again. J. H. ("Jim") Clark of Windsor was up first. A moment later Aurelien Belanger, M.P.P. for Prescott, and Colonel Hunter got to their feet simultaneously. Mr. Belanger got his bill before the House.

Tag Days and Tea-Rooms.

With the House murmuring mock sympathy, the Colonel finally got a chance to beg leave to introduce a bill amending the Assessment Act, permitting the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner of the Court of Revision.

Mr. Strachan moved an amendment to the Municipal Act allowing a municipality to levy the cost of filling in certain abandoned areas.

Colonel Hunter moved another amendment to the Municipal Act permitting restricted areas against private schools, hairdressing establishments and tea-rooms.

Colonel Hunter moved another amendment to the Municipal Act permitting opening of the municipal polls for any eight hours prior to 9 p.m.

Robert Allen, Toronto Liberal, M.P.P., moved an amendment to the Municipal Act enlarging a municipality's power to revoke any license it grants.

Mr. Allen moved another amendment to the Municipal Act clarifying the Police Commission right to grant tag days.

"Mr. Speaker," said Wilfrid Heighington. "In view of the number of amendments to the Municipal Act, it might be a good idea for some one to bring in an act to remove it altogether."

"Mr. Speaker," said J. J. Glass, Toronto Liberal M.P.P., as the House roared. "I beg leave to introduce an act to amend the Municipal Act."

SCHOOL TAXES ACTION PENDS SECOND CAUCUS

No Announcement Fol- lows First Liberal Par- ley on Amendment

Caucus action on the Ontario Government's plans for separate school tax amendment was postponed to a second caucus after Liberal members met in secret session at Queen's Park yesterday.

The second caucus is scheduled for tomorrow. The widely touted session yesterday was lengthy, but was reported to be comparatively uneventful. Members of the Government, according to after-caucus rumor, sketched an outline of the Government's school proposals which are now generally understood to be along "moderate" lines.

Some protest was rumored from strong pro-Catholic members, but it was reported after the session that there had been no split. The present program is understood to call for a detailed submission of Government plans tomorrow.

Caucus bitterness was rumored to have risen in a Northern Ontario-Southern Ontario fight. Northern members were later credited with a warm defense of Provincial expenditures in the Northern ridings. They were forced to this defense, it was reported, by an attack from "Old Ontario" Liberals.

"Bill No. 52," the Government's mystery bill, generally reported to have strengthened the municipal corporation tax, has been dropped for the present, according to reliable authority. The principle of the bill, it is stated, may be used later, but not in the form which reached and was stopped at the Government printing press.

TAX BILL READY FOR LAST READING

Measure Emerges From Committee

After one last Conservative broadside, the Provincial income tax bill emerged from committee in the Legislature yesterday.

Following reprinting to incorporate changes and amendments, the bill will come back for third reading, when it may—or may not—pass unchallenged.

Wilfrid Heighington (Conservative, St. David) fired the final Opposition volley at the measure when he opposed it as "a clumsy piece of craftsmanship, amended and reamended, so that instead of being a finished piece of legislation we have only a mass of confusion."

"Since Arthur Meighen has gone in for Shakespeare in a big way," concluded Mr. Heighington, "permit me to quote a passage from Macbeth which expresses my opinion of this measure: 'Confusion now hath made its masterpiece.'"

Three minor sectional changes were proposed by Hon. Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines, who is piloting the bill through the House, and were adopted after brief debate.

URBAN HOUSING BILL INTRODUCED

Would Compel Rehabilita- tion of Buildings

Toronto slum clearance was advanced another step yesterday when J. J. Glass, Toronto Liberal M.P.P., introduced a bill in the Legislature which would give municipalities the right to compel owners of dilapidated buildings to put them in good repair or tear them down.

The bill would apply to urban municipalities only. Mr. Glass's preamble explained. At present when a building is in ruinous condition, the municipality has no right to interfere unless the building should happen to provide a fire risk or be a danger to the public in other ways. The amendment gives the right to the municipality to require that the building be put into proper repair, or that it be pulled down.