

WATER RATES CAUSE DEBATE

Bill Would Empower Municipal Board

The Ontario Legislature Private Bills Committee, after a stormy session yesterday, approved a bill sponsored by W. J. Gardhouse, York West M.P.P., providing for a new means of arbitrating between the City of Toronto and York Township over the costs of water the city supplies the township. The bill gives the Ontario Municipal Board power to fix the rates.

The proposed new plan for arbitration applied not only to York County, said Leopold Macaulay, but might apply to Essex and Middlesex Counties. Thus the Municipal Board, if given the task of arbitrating, would know how to deal with situations arising elsewhere in the Province.

Party lines were broken as Toronto members shouted their opposition to the measure. At one point several jumped angrily to their feet when the committee wished to pass the measure before listening to additional Toronto representatives.

"For some time past residents felt they suffered a great injustice for exorbitant rates they paid for water compared with the City of Toronto," said Mr. Gardhouse.

Under an agreement between the township and the city, dated July 18, 1916, the city furnishes a metered supply of water delivered to the township boundary at twenty cents per 1,000 gallons, according to a brief submitted by the township.

"The city has refused to reduce this rate, notwithstanding the greatly increased consumption of water by the township and the fact that this charge very greatly exceeds the cost of water to the city," the brief said.

Agriculture Minister Marshall said he lived in York Township, "and when I get my water bills I think I am living on the Sahara Desert."

Robert A. Allen (Liberal, Toronto) asked what would happen should Toronto cut off York's water supply.

"Just let the City of Toronto shut off water to the people of York Township and we will teach them a few things," said Mr. Marshall.

"There you are," Mr. Allen replied. "I knew that would come out. That's a threat to the City of Toronto. We should kill this bill right now."

MEMBERS LAUGH AT "RIFFRAFF"

Crossfire Remarks Add to Gaiety

When George S. Henry referred to a third of the Liberal membership as "riffraff" and J. J. Glass jumped up to seek satisfaction for a personal insult, Ontario's Legislature last night sat back and laughed until M.P.P.'s sides ached.

The big laugh was a sequence to a few words between Premier Hepburn and the former Premier. Mr. Hepburn was annoyed at Mr. Henry, and more annoyed when Conservative benchers shouted for "order."

"I will tell you something you won't like to hear," Mr. Hepburn promised Mr. Henry.

"I don't care what you say."

"Of course, you don't." And the Premier added something that nettled the Opposition Leader. He got up to protest, and the Liberal benchers next to the Tories—long-time baiters of the former Premier—chorused for order.

The Opposition Leader back-handed his arm in the direction of his tormentors, and shouted out: "The riffraff that sit around me." While Premier, former Premier, the House and the galleries started to roar, J. J. Glass was up on his feet and blazing.

"Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege."

The House roared more.

"Mr. Speaker, I think it's unparliamentary. I think it's—"

Arthur Des Rosiers, French-Canadian M.P.P. from Russell, and famed Henry-baiter of last year, was on his feet to make his first speech of the session.

"I'd like to ask my honorable friend," said Dr. Des Rosiers with inimitable seriousness, "what he means by riffraff."

While the House laughed again Mr. Glass insisted he wanted his "personal matter" attended to.

"If he is a gentleman he will retract it."

The former Premier, whose dignity was now getting near the danger point, got up from his chair with a sober face.

"I didn't know the member for St. Andrew's was present," he explained, and the House went off into laughter again.

DEBENTURE ISSUE MEASURE SCORED

Provisions of a City of Ottawa private bill drew fire in committee at Queen's Park yesterday, when Welfare-Labor Minister David Croll objected to clauses giving the city the right to issue certain debentures.

"This year," he told Ottawa representatives, "if you want any of these expenditures you will have to get them by a vote of the people."

The bill was allowed to stand until Friday after the Minister had put his objections before the committee.