

One-Man Trolleys To Remain Legal

Bill to Make Two Operators Compulsory Is Defeated

ONE-MAN street cars will remain legal in Ontario, so far as the Legislature is concerned.

Bill Defeated.

Yesterday the House defeated, on second reading, the bill of T. A. Murphy, Conservative member for the Beaches, to make it compulsory to have a crew of two men on all trolleys.

Minister of Labor David Croll, while admitting there was merit in the bill, said he proposed, if it went to committee, to submit two amendments—one limiting the two-man rule to cities of 200,000 and over, and the other providing that the law could not apply without first receiving the endorsement of the individual City Councils.

Russell Nesbitt, Toronto Tory, thought the bill would get more consideration if deferred for a year. He noted that the T.T.C. declared passage of the bill would mean a higher fare for Toronto.

A. H. Acres, Carleton Conservative, emphatically supported the measure, and said 95 per cent. of the people of Ontario were behind it. "It's no use," he said, "for the Presidents of the trolley companies, like Mr. Harvey, saying that it'll mean increased fares. In the old days they had two men on all cars and took you anywhere on the line for a nickel. If they would go back to two-men crews and the five-cent fare they would get more revenue and would help alleviate unemployment."

Nervous Wrecks.

Mr. Acres professed great sympathy for the operators of one-man cars, saying that they were becoming physical and nervous wrecks, due to the multiplicity of their duties. "Why," he exclaimed, "they even should have two men on those big highway busses. They're getting away with a lot, in my opinion."

Sam Lawrence, Hamilton C.C.F. member, deplored Mr. Croll's proposed amendment limiting the effect of the bill to cities of over 200,000. A private company which formerly operated in Hamilton, he said, used two-man cars except on the spur lines, but as soon as the Hydro took over it applied for one-man cars for almost all routes. He agreed with Mr. Acres that an operator trying to manage controller, brakes, door handles, tickets, transfers and change would be sure to suffer in health eventually.

Dr. A. D. Roberts, Liberal member for Sault Ste. Marie, said the bill, if passed, might mean the closing of the Sault tram line, since it could not operate with the higher cost involved by two-man cars. He opposed it strongly.

Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, corrected Mr. Lawrence with the information that the Hamilton Street Railway at present was not paying its way, even with one-man cars.

The House then killed the bill.

SCHOOL TAXES MAY BE SPLIT ON "MUST" BASIS

Division Favorable to Non-Ontario Share- holders Forecast

A fairly liberal division of the corporation taxes which are indirectly paid by outside-of-Ontario shareholders may feature the school bill when it is brought into the Legislature today.

Liberal members, it was reported yesterday, are agreed to acquiesce in the changing of "may" to "must" in the tax law. But the division of the tax which is indirectly paid by non-Ontario shareholders is rumored to have been a bone of contention.

The Government is reported to have held out for a division of this share of the corporation taxes between the two school systems on an assessment basis. The Liberal members who are lukewarm to the changes are reported to have wanted all this money in the public school treasuries.

Premier Hepburn repeated yesterday that the bill will be introduced in the Legislature today. If he follows his custom of last year when he brought in the Hydro contract bill, the Premier will speak to it at the time of its introduction.

An amendment to the Assessment Act stands in the Premier's name on the order paper and was placed there Tuesday. It is presumed that this is the school legislation.

TAX-FREE LAND BILL APPROVED

The Ontario Legislature Municipal Committee yesterday approved the bill sponsored by Morgan Baker (Lib., York North) to limit all private schools to twenty acres of tax-free land. At present private schools are exempt from taxation of all land in connection with their buildings.

Mr. Baker based his objection to the present law on the experience of Pickering College, in Toronto district, which, he said, farmed 100 acres and competed with farmers.

"If this sort of thing keeps up we will have to close some of the public schools in Whitechurch Township," he stated. "The farmers cannot pay the shot."

MINIMUM WAGE PENALTY MAY GO

Amendment Will Remove Imprisonment Clause

Removal of the minimum penalty of two months' imprisonment for second offenders, under the Minimum Wage Act, is provided by an amendment introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Labor-Welfare Minister David Croll.

"At the present time," he explained, "Judges are reluctant to send employers to jail for not paying proper wages."

"Taking the teeth out of it," commented Russell Nesbitt, Toronto M.P.P.

"No, of course not," replied Mr. Croll. "The present bill had so much kick in it that every one is afraid to enforce it."

To prevent abuse of the act by employers who pay partly in cash and partly in credits, another amendment stipulates that the full minimum wage shall be in cash, so that there may be no doubt if the law has been broken.