

House Deadlocked; Tory Moves Hoist Until Election Held

Indefinite Sitting of Legislature Seen at 3.15 This Morning — C.P.R. Clause May Be Dropped

An indefinite sitting of the Legislature loomed up at 3.30 this (Thursday) morning after Wilfrid Heighington, Toronto, had brought in an amendment to hoist the school tax changes until after a general election. The Premier announced he would let the debate run on indefinitely, while Liberals declared an agreement to limit debate had been broken by the Tories.

Government plans to slightly modify the School Act as it is put through the Legislature were spilled in the House last night as the bill pounded on toward second reading.

The hint was dropped by Colonel Fraser Hunter, Toronto M.P.P. He had heard, he told the Legislature, that one clause might be withdrawn.

The Toronto M.P.P. was apparently referring to the clause which names the C.P.R. and Bell Telephone Company as corporations which must divide their taxes between the separate and public schools on the basis of a municipality's school assessment.

The C.P.R.-Bell Telephone clause had been under heavy fire on the previous evening when Leopold Macaulay questioned its legal strength.

"Will the C.P.R. clause be withdrawn?" Premier Hepburn was asked a few minutes after his private member had hinted such action might be taken.

"If it is withdrawn it does not affect the principle," was the answer "The clause is only declaratory."

Observers agreed that the suggested amendment of the bill would only throw the railway and telephone companies back into the group of big corporations, which must pay their taxes to the two systems on a fixed basis.

Elimination of their names from the act, it was reported, will tend to strengthen it when it is attacked in the courts.

Hear All Tories But One.

Very patiently and very quietly, the Liberals listened into the early morning while every Conservative member but one got up and presented the arguments against the bill. The lobbies, though, were seething. And, although the Premier said nothing when the amendment reopening the debate was brought down, it was reported that he was ready to put his followers on a two-shift basis and steam-roller tactics today.

At midnight a counter-suggestion that the House should adjourn over Easter so the members could talk the bill over with their constituents was made by G. C. Elgie (Cons., Toronto-Woodbine). The Tory member predicted the members would find Ontario in rebellion.

The Government benches ignored his suggestion, and a few minutes later Colonel W. H. Price had taken up the

cudgels for the Opposition—making it improbable there would be a division before the early hours of the morning.

Common school made for religious tolerance, Colonel Price said.

"The place for all children is in a national school. Let them go to school together," he said. "Let them play together—then it will take a lot of talking outside to tell them that anything's wrong."

"I know it is the desire of members to bring this debate to a close as soon as possible," the Premier said at 10 o'clock. He was asking William Duckworth to return his courtesy of the previous evening when he permitted the Toronto Tory M.P.P. to adjourn the debate.

"In a few hours it's my responsibility to advise his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in regard to a prorogation tomorrow. But if the honorable member continues we will have to continue over Easter."

Galleries Are Jammed.

Galleries packed to the tall windows on both sides of the Chamber heard the Premier's hint of a division in the course of the night's sitting and of an Easter prorogation.

Instead of permitting the Opposition to round off the debate without interruption, the Liberals put up Colonel Fraser Hunter to speak for the bill a few minutes after the announcement that a division was likely.

"Without the separate school compromise," said the Toronto M.P.P., "there would be no Canada, there would be no Canada and the abolition of the compact must mean the elimination of Canada from the comity of nations."

"Canada and separate schools are absolutely synonymous. At Confederation we made a compact. I say we will not break that compact, as demanded by species of telegrams—I don't know how many I got today—by partisan organizations," he said.

Hunter Is Definite.

The reference was to the anti-school bill wires which flooded the Parliament Buildings during the day. Organizations opposed to the measure were reported to be bringing all possible pressure to bear on the members for their ridings.

As many rumors as telegrams flew around the Parliament Buildings. Both parties went to private dinners during a more than ordinarily long dinner recess. Business was not discussed at either Tory or Grit banquets, it was stated later.

Colonel Fraser Hunter made no secret of his intention to vote for the bill.

"This bill is an honest and fearless attempt to do right and as far as is humanly possible in these days to render justice under the laws which are the props of our society. The back benches are absolutely under no Liberal Party compulsion to vote for the bill," he said.

The Liberal benches pounded their desks. "You can't say I took orders from a whip or any one else. (More applause.)"

"I am going to vote in favor of supporting this law of the land and the Dominion of Canada. If my constituents think I am wrong—I must vote according to my conscience. If any constituents think I am wrong they certainly have the liberty of getting another man," he said.

The Colonel spoke of German soldiers and French soldiers praying to the same God in their different tongues. "That's the spirit of tolerance. I appeal to you as a reasonable man—everybody knows I'm not a politician—when the days of intolerance are dead and worn out why don't you get on the band-wagon?" he said

"Blank-Cheque" Measure.

Branding the bill as "blank-cheque legislation," and the separate schools as "auxiliaries to the Catholic Church," whose primary purpose was to teach sectarian religion, G. C. Elgie, member for Toronto-Woodbine, led the Opposition attack of the evening.

Supporting him was William Duckworth, Dovercourt Tory, who professed to see danger and expense ahead for the people of the Province if the bill went through, because, he said, it would be the signal for widespread Catholic efforts to set up new separate schools to duplicate the public institutions.

Ask for Opinions.

"This Government," said Mr. Elgie, "has drawn a line of cleavage and it must take the responsibility. And there is every indication that he has failed in the purpose he sought to achieve."

"The Prime Minister has fostered this bill. And who has spoken in favor of it? Whom have we heard? Have we heard the opinions of the rank and file of the Liberal members?"

"We have a right to learn what those back-benchers think of the bill. The Minister of Education has spoken and since then we have heard nothing."

The Government, he said, ought at least to have awaited the expected revision of the British North America Act, or an official judicial judgment of the act as it now stood.

"Again we are being asked to sign a blank cheque," complained Mr. Elgie. "I wonder if the people of Ontario realize that this bill will cost the public school supporters a sum which neither the Premier nor his Minister of Education is able to estimate—although they did admit that it would mean a heavy loss in some of the smaller municipalities."

"This piece of legislation," said Mr. Elgie, "tends to divide the people of Ontario into two hostile camps, and bodes ill for any legislator who does not take a decisive stand. It puts every member of this House on the spot."

Whatever might be claimed for separate schools, he declared, the fact remained that they were "auxiliaries to the Roman Catholic Church, designed to inculcate and extend the teaching of that Church."

"In view of that fact," he asked, "how far were the people of the Province justified in extending financial assistance to a set of schools whose primary purpose was to teach sectarian religion?"

Vicious, Says Duckworth.

Mr. Duckworth's address was featured by the charge that Roman Catholic "agitators" had some years ago forced upon the unwilling Protestant and Catholic citizens of Midland an unwanted separate school, and that two prominent Midland men were virtually excommunicated because they opposed their priest, Rev. Father Castex in his advocacy of the school.

This, Mr. Duckworth claimed, was a sample of the foisting of unnecessary separate schools upon the people of Ontario, that would follow the granting of more funds to Catholic schools.

The Catholics penalized by their clergy were Thomas Nottingham and Richard McCormack, Mr. Duckworth told the House. He went on to say that now under a new priest, Father Kehoe, the Catholics of Midland were obliged to ask the Midland Council for \$2,000 to carry on.

"I stand," Mr. Duckworth told the House, "for one flag and for one school system for all creeds and nationalities."

"This school tax division bill is one of the most vicious that has ever been introduced into this House," proceeded the Dovercourt Tory. "It increases the taxes on the municipalities and causes bad feeling between two religious sects."

"Gang of Agitators."

"Mr. Croll has stated many times on the floor of this House that the municipalities cannot stand any more tax burdens, and yet this Government brings along a bill that will raise the