

April 10

Members Anxious For Prorogation

Path Cleared for Separate School Tax Bill

SNAGS in the form of last-minute amendments were cleared from the path of Prime Minister Hepburn's separate school tax bill as it passed committee stage and third reading in the dying hours of the Legislature yesterday afternoon, just prior to prorogation.

Motion Defeated.

The main division of the day occurred on a motion by former Prime Minister Henry to give a six-months hoist to the bill, delaying third reading. The motion was defeated along straight party lines by a vote of 57 to 17.

According to Opposition protests, Mr. Hepburn himself withdrew an amendment proposed by Hon. Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines, following brief discussion. Several other minor amendments were approved before the committee rose and reported the bill for third reading, which was given without debate.

Neither Mr. Leduc's proposed amendment nor any of the other amendments were designed to alter the principle of the bill, it was made clear, and most of the argument was of a legal nature. What discussion did occur was not bitter, both parties evincing an eagerness to get the bill through and proceed with prorogation.

Mr. Leduc's amendment would have stricken the words "separate school supporters" from the main clauses of the bill, but Leopold Macaulay, Tory member, urged that the words were vital to the interpretation of the measure. The words were linked with the term "Roman Catholics" where the bill referred to "individuals who are Roman Catholics and separate school supporters." The Tories claimed that they ought to have been given notice of the amendment.

Another Concession.

Another concession to the Opposition was in the form of Mr. Hepburn's agreement to Mr. Macaulay's proposal to raise from one-fourth to one-half the number of shares of a corporation which must be held outside the Province before the corpora-

tion may divide its taxes on the basis of the general property assessment of the municipality.

Mr. Macaulay also moved that a section of the same clause be stricken out because it left it entirely to a corporation to determine which section of the act it came under in preparing its return on the proportion of Catholics among its shareholders. This amendment was dropped, however, when Attorney-General Roebuck promised that provision was being made for appeal if the assessment were found not to be in accord with the return filed by the corporation.

The only heat displayed during the committee discussion came at the first and last. Early in the sitting, Mr. Macaulay and Hon. George Henry warned Mr. Hepburn that, if he tried "to cram this bill through committee we'll be here all afternoon, and won't prorogue today." And later, W. A. Baird, Toronto Tory, complained to the Chair that there were too many interruptions, only to be told by J. A. Habel (Liberal, South Cochrane) that the only interruptions thus far had come from the Opposition benches.

A division occurred earlier, when W. D. Black, Addington Tory, moved a six months' hoist of Hon. Peter Heenan's bill to reallocate Northern timber limits. The motion was lost by a vote of 47 to 16.