

Party Lines Are Split Over Floral Emblem

Legislature Gets Nowhere Very Rapidly, So Refers Delicate Problem to Agri- culture Committee

Choosing a floral emblem for Ontario is not such an easy matter as it looks, members of the Legislature discovered yesterday. "Bill" Gardhouse, Liberal member for West York, started the legislators on a discussion of wild flowers, ranging from orange lilies to Scotch thistles, with a few members stoutly defending the merits of dandelions and shamrocks.

Mr. Gardhouse spoke at the second reading of a bill which would make the white trillium, tri-petalled lily, the Provincial emblem. This flower is the choice of the Ontario Horticultural Society, Mr. Gardhouse explained.

It didn't appear to be the choice of the Ontario Legislature by any means. Up spoke James Clark (Lib., Windsor - Sandwich), who praised the merits of the dandelion claiming it was a warm, pleasant kind of flower and one that was known throughout the Province. This assertion produced a split in the Liberal Party ranks when William Newman (Lib., Victoria) described the dandelion as a weed, and endorsed the trillium.

"The Man From Glengarry," the veteran J. A. Sangster (Lib.), spoke up for the Scotch thistle, and William Duckworth (Cons., Dovercourt) thought the Government might very appropriately adopt the orange lily as Ontario's emblem. From J. Rowlandson (Lib., South Cochrane) came the opinion that the shamrock would be just as good as any flower.

T. P. Lancaster (Cons., Peterborough) thought something should be done about protection of wild flowers, and George Henry, Opposition Leader, expressed the opinion that a referendum be held in the schools so that the children might decide the flower best suited for the purpose of an emblem.

"What about our Art Committee?" inquired J. J. Glass (Lib., St. Andrew). "Why not let them decide the question?"

Seeing they were getting nowhere very rapidly, the House decided to give the bill second reading, and send it on to the Agricultural Committee for further consideration.

It was reported that Frank Kelly (Lib., Muskoka) took more than ordinary interest in the discussions. Known as the "Uncrowned King of Muskoka," Mr. Kelly is in the habit of wearing a rose as a boutonniere, and it was said he is worried about the possibility he will have to wear a trillium or other flower if the bill is approved.

ASKS PARKING LOT TAX JUMP

Harold Kirby's Bill Meets Opposition From Wilfrid Heighington

SENT TO COMMITTEE

Operators of outdoor automobile parking lots may have their business assessment tax raised from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent., if a bill now before the Legislature is approved. Yesterday the House gave second reading to an amendment to the Assessment Act and sent it on to the Legal Bills Committee for consideration.

Harold Kirby (Lib., Eglinton), in introducing the bill, said it was a request from the City of Toronto. The municipality felt the exception made in case of parking lots should be abolished and the assessment made the same as garages, namely 25 per cent. of the assessed value of the property. Opposition was voiced by Wilfrid Heighington (Cons., St. David's), who said a similar bill was defeated in the Legislature two years ago. He questioned the right of the City of Toronto to submit defeated legislation a second time without giving reasons why it should not be approved.

Hon. David Croll, Minister of Municipal Affairs, said he was inclined to agree with the member for St. David's (Mr. Heighington) on the point of war veterans. But he had been informed the situation was now changing; that many of these car-parking lots were in the hands of a few groups of individuals.

HIGHWAY PROBE ENDS ABRUPTLY

Cost of Northern Road Ad-
mitted to Be \$2,409,726
for 47 Miles

QUERY HOSPITAL BILLS

The Conservative Opposition's Public Accounts Committee inquiry into certain angles of the Dufferin Paving and Construction Company's building of 47.8 miles of the Kenora-Fort Frances Highway ended abruptly yesterday when Arthur Ellis, chief Opposition counsel, admitted that all he was trying to find out was the cost of the road, and Government counsel admitted the cost to be \$2,409,726.07.

Committee members, with Mr. Ellis; Attorney-General Roebuck, representing the Hepburn Government; and Major James Clark, committee Chairman, providing most of the argument, wrangled for a good hour and a half over the desire of the Opposition to get beyond the particular items they had asked to be investigated.

Mr. Ellis moved that Dr. B. T. McGhie, Deputy Minister of Health, be subpoenaed before the committee at its next meeting to give evidence regarding bills for repairs to eleven Ontario hospitals during the last fiscal year.

Chester S. Walters, Controller of Finances, will also be subpoenaed to appear before the committee in connection with an inquiry which Mr. Ellis is launching into various aspects of Government financing.