

Progress Made by Bill Changing M.L.A. to M.P.

Second reading of Lieut.-Col. Fraser Hunter's bill to accord members of the Ontario Legislature the "rank, precedence and titular distinction accorded to that of a member of Parliament as the same is known in the Parliament of Canada," in other words to affix the letters "M.P." to their names, was given by the Ontario Legislature yesterday.

Colonel Hunter submitted that the Ontario Legislature was actually, according to constitution, a Parliament, that the Union Parliament between Upper and Lower Canada between 1840 and 1867 was recognized as a Parliament, and its claim to such was not affected by the British North America Act, which, he claimed, merely divided legislative powers.

"No authority but the members of this Assembly can alter the powers, privileges and immunities of this House within the limits of the powers delegated to it by the Mother of Parliaments and not surrendered by it," he declared. "None of our powers was ever delegated by Ottawa, and Ottawa has no authority to define the immunities, privileges, powers or titles of the Parliament of Ontario."

Says No Distinction.

"Since Ontario, Quebec, new Brunswick and Nova Scotia, under the Acts of the British Parliament in 1774 to 1840 have sovereign Parliaments and South Africa, Australia

and other self-governing Dominions the same, and since there is no distinction between the sovereign function of the members of any of them within their own limits delegated by Great Britain to representatives of free peoples, why in the name of simplicity do we not call them M.P.'s?"

The House tittered when the Colonel asked: "What might not M.L.A. mean to the member of a lumber association or a Ladies' Aid?"

"After all," he said, "such affixes were not intended for the convenience of postmen."

"It is for this sovereign Parliament to remove a stigma of inferiority, a confusion of identity or distinctions between the functions of all members of Parliament which do not exist . . . let us call our roses by their own names, let us all be M.P.'s or nothing."

Support by J. J. Glass.

Historically, there was justification that the present terminology of designation, M.L.A., was incorrect, submitted J. J. Glass. For that reason, he said, he supported the bill.

"Look at the pictures in the hallways of our predecessors, 'First Parliament, Second Parliament,' and so on," he said. "If this is not a Parliament why call it one?"

The distinction M.L.A. originated, he believed, in Quebec to distinguish between members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.

SEEKS STATUS AS BARRISTER

Reeve MacDonald, New Toronto, Applies for Special Recognition

PRACTISING 15 YEARS

Application of William Edwards MacDonald to the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature for authorization of the Law Society of Upper Canada to admit him as a barrister was reported by the committee yesterday.

William MacDonald recently announced his decision to resign as Reeve of New Toronto.

It was the third time, Mr. MacDonald told the Committee, that he had submitted a bill to the Committee to assist him to gain recognition as a barrister, that he had been practicing law for the last fifteen years, but because of his failure to file a matriculation certificate with the Law Society he had been unable to write the examinations provided by the society.

He said he had opened a law office in New Toronto fourteen years ago, and in the last ten years had held "all kinds" of public positions, including that of Reeve and Warden of the County of York and had appeared in Division Court many times. His first bill, submitted in 1924, authorizing the Law Society to admit him as a student without the necessity of the matriculation certificate, had been withdrawn after it had been reported, he said, because of an agreement with the Law Society that he would be admitted as a third-year student. But, he contended, he had been unable to fulfil the agreement because, he claimed, the Society still required that he try the matricula-

tion examination. In 1935, a second bill had been withdrawn, he said, because the then Attorney-General, Hon. A. W. Roebuck, had advised him he would try to influence the Law Society to reconsider the case.

J. C. McRuer, K.C., appearing for the Law Society, submitted that the society endeavored to protect not only the public but parents who sacrificed great expense to give their children the usual educational background for the profession. Mr. MacDonald, he said, had not taken advantage of the agreement made with the society in 1924.

"Don't you think he was a bit taken in in 1924 by the private agreement?" asked Chairman David Croll.

"You can't make a lawyer by an act of Parliament," said Mr. McRuer.

"You should sit here and watch us," advised Chairman Croll, glancing at Major Alex. Lewis, who had a similar bill passed this week. The committee roared with laughter.

Nixon Marks Birthday

House members yesterday, before proceeding with business, felicitated Hon. Harry Nixon, Provincial Secretary, who was celebrating his forty-seventh birthday. Greetings were extended by both Leaders after a page boy presented roses to the Minister.

Mr. Nixon, who has sat in the House continuously for twenty years, submitted he had been handicapped by being born on April 1, but held, when it was an inherent tendency in the family, it had to be regarded philosophically. His eldest son, he said, was celebrating his twentieth birthday also.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to have sat in the House so many years," he said, "but the greatest pleasure has been in the friendships I have formed. On many occasions there has been bitter debate, and on one occasion (referring to Wednesday's vote on the sweepstake motion) I have voted against my dearest friend, the Prime Minister. I hope it will be another twenty years before I am called to vote against him again."

Mortgagors Act Extended

Provisions of the Mortgagors and Purchasers Relief Act were extended yesterday in the Ontario Legislature to another year when Hon. Gordon Conant, Attorney-General, withdrew an amendment to Part II of a proposed amendment to the act.

"It is not the desire of this Government to wreak hardships on any of our people, and probably there have been abuses of this bill, but we must work for the greatest good of the greatest number, and so I propose to extend the entire bill for one year," said Mr. Conant.