

September 22

## HOUSE DEFEATS FRANCHISE BILL

Hon. Eric Cross, Minister of Municipal Affairs and of Welfare, yesterday in the Ontario Legislature, declared Government policy was averse to granting municipal franchise rights except upon the basis of property ownership standards.

His declaration came when he opposed second reading to amendments of the Assessment Act and the Voters List Act, both proposed by Arthur Roebuck, K.C. (Lib., Bellwoods). The House rejected the bills.

"It seems to me," said Mr. Cross, "we have gone too far in getting away from property ownership as the basis for municipal franchise."

Mr. Roebuck claimed that an amendment at the spring session to the Assessment Act had the effect of disenfranchising men and women, who were otherwise eligible to vote, but who lived in one or more rooms and had their meals outside.

The Legislature gave third and final reading to all the war emergency legislation.

## MEETINGS ACT IS REDRAFTED

**Committee Approves  
Statute Revisions**

**CLAUSES MODIFIED**

Redrafted in line with criticisms offered Wednesday by A. W. Roebuck (Lib., Toronto Bellwoods), the Public Meetings and Processions Act, 1939, passed through committee stage without opposition in the Ontario Legislature yesterday.

The measure, in its new form, retained the principle of requiring permits for all public meetings in public places, but modifications in various clauses removed conditions which, opposing members had declared, were overly suppressive in effect.

In addition to the insertion of some ten "publics" in defining a public place, the amended bill limited the power of arresting officers and of police commissions in its administration. Under the original terms, a police commission, municipal council or magistrate could refuse a permit without stating any reason for such refusal. This was changed in the amended act to read: "May issue any permit subject to such conditions as it or he may deem proper, or may refuse to issue a permit."

In its original state, the act empowered any constable to arrest without warning "any person contravening any of the provisions of this act or whom he suspects of having contravened or being about to contravene any of the provisions of this act." By amendment the constable's power was limited to the arrest of any person contravening the act.

The measure will come into effect on proclamation by the Lieutenant-Governor.