

# Youngest to Be Legal Survivor In Multiple Death Accidents

## Macaulay Waxes Facetious in Legislature Debate to Suggest Renaming of Premier's Lake Laurier

A bill which settles the question of priority of death on the basis of seniority, in cases where two or more persons die in circumstances which make it impossible to ascertain who survived the other, or others, was given first reading in the Legislature yesterday.

Attorney-General Conant explained that the bill followed in a general way the English provision and had been adopted by the Commissioners on uniformity of legislation in Canada.

The proposed measure deals with cases affecting the title to property, and for this purpose it provides that such deaths shall be presumed to have occurred in the order of seniority, and, accordingly, the younger shall have been deemed to have survived the older.

Leopold Macaulay, Conservative member for South York, created laughter when he said the bill failed to provide for disasters from a common cause—like Lake Laurier, the artificial stretch of water on Premier Hepburn's farm. There were too many accidents on this lake, maintained Mr. Macaulay, who was critical of the wording of the bill, which is entitled "An Act Respecting Survivorship in Common Disasters."

Mr. Macaulay, with that look of bland innocence which to the initiated usually means trouble for some

one, said he was disappointed that the bill did not cover cases of this kind.

There should be a law or the name should be changed to something less conducive to activity, like Lake Mackenzie King, he said.

"Why, only last year the secretary of the Liberal Party (Harry Johnson) fell and broke his leg," said Mr. Macaulay.

"I hope that it was not his bankroll," he added.

Latest victim of Lake Laurier was Mrs. Hepburn, wife of the Premier, continued Mr. Macaulay.

"There is too much activity there with a name like Lake Laurier," declared the South York Conservative. "You should change it to Lake Mackenzie King and then nothing would ever happen there."

The House also gave second reading to bills exempting members of the R.C.A.F. from jury duty, extending the provisions of the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Act for another year and removing doubt as to the enforceability of a claim for life insurance money in the event of a suicide.

Of that bill, an act to amend the Insurance Act, Mr. Conant said that insurance companies have been paying claims in the event of an assured's suicide, but that the clause was designed to make the practice lawful.

# TERM WILL STAY SAME THIS YEAR

Bill, if Passed, Will Not  
Apply Until 1941, Report

## FAVOR PLEBISCITES

The Hepburn Government's long-proposed bill to establish a two-year term for municipal councils will—if forced through the present session of the Legislature—be so modified, it is reported, as not to become operative until the 1941 elections.

The measure was discussed at a Queen's Park caucus of Liberal M.L.A.'s, yesterday noon, and Hon. Eric Cross, Minister of Welfare and Municipal Affairs, its sponsor, is said to have favored this modification.

Majority of caucus are reported as also strongly favoring the idea of having all municipalities conduct plebiscites in connection with the 1941 elections to determine whether they want the two-year term or not, the decisions from those plebiscites to be binding.

However, the controversial question has not been definitely settled and there is no assurance yet as to the course the Government ultimately will pursue. Some members, it is said, want the proposed legislation abandoned entirely this session. It will, it is reported, be caucused again next week.