

MOVE DEFEATED TO FORCE VOTE ON 2-YEAR TERM

Macaulay Amendment Would Make Councils Submit Proposal

An amendment to the Local Government Extension Act, which extends the term of municipal councils from one to two years, making it compulsory for councils to submit the plan to the voters at the next elections, was proposed in the Legislature yesterday by Leopold Macaulay (Cons., South York), and defeated on a standing vote that saw a three-way split in the House.

The amendment was brought forward after Hon. Harry Nixon, Provincial Secretary, and Acting Premier, had called upon the Government majority to pass sections of the bill when the House was in committee of the whole, in spite of accusations of steamroller tactics from the Opposition benches.

Mr. Macaulay called for a standing vote, and the House split three ways, with F. A. Oliver (U.F.O., South Grey) and Arthur Roebuck (Ind. Lib., Bellwoods) voting with the Opposition, and Conservative members G. H. Dunbar (Ottawa South) and W. B. Reynolds (Leeds) voting with the Government to defeat the Macaulay amendment.

The debate, opening up along straight party lines, brought to an abrupt end the complete agreement of the Opposition with the Treasury benches during their criticism of the Federal Government's war effort. Arthur Roebuck turned on his former colleagues, and joined with Colonel Drew and Leopold Macaulay to lead opposition to the bill.

Time and time again during the debate Mr. Nixon called upon his superior force in the House to pass sections of the bill, but the arguments of the Opposition forced the Government to amend the part of the bill which included appointed commissions with elected councils under the extended term. The debate lasted past the 6 o'clock adjournment hour, and Mr. Cross, Minister of Municipal Affairs, who brought in the bill, also said he was ready to reduce the number of qualified voters from 10 to 5 per cent needed to force an election if a council was to be turned out after one year. The House rose before this amendment could be voted on.

Conservative members and Mr. Roebuck argued that the present Municipal Act allowed municipalities to vote themselves a two-year term if they so desired, and that this law should not be changed to force a two-year term upon municipalities who voted against the extension last January.

Former Premier Henry suggested that the Government institute a system of bonusing municipalities who would vote themselves into the scheme, if the two-year was regarded by the Government as so necessary.

DREW WILL ASK THAT SWEEZEY GIVE EVIDENCE

Heenan Refuses to Give Names of Backers of Lake Sulphite Firm

SEEKS RULING

Colonel George Drew will ask that R. O. Sweezy, Montreal promoter, be called to give evidence before the special committee of the Legislature investigating the timber policies of the Department of Lands and Forests on his negotiations with the Government with regard to Lake Sulphite Company.

The Opposition Leader said yesterday after the regular meeting of the committee that he would seek to call Mr. Sweezy in order to obtain a complete record of all business which transpired from the time Mr. Sweezy first approached Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Lands and Forests, on behalf of the Lake Sulphite Company, until the time the company collapsed.

Most of the session yesterday was taken up with reading into the record letters that passed between Mr. Sweezy, as promoter of the Lake Sulphite Company, and the Department of Lands and Forests. Mr. Heenan, in answer to a question of Colonel Drew's, said that no land had been taken from the Great Lakes Paper Company or any other company to turn over to the Lake Sulphite Company, but that certain land had been turned back to the Government three months before the Sulphite Company applied for rights.

Asks For Names.

"Mr. Sweezy came to me and said that he was in a position to get certain men to put up about two and a half million dollars for the project," said Mr. Heenan, "and a \$50,000 bond was posted that would be turned over to the Government if they did not go ahead with their plans."

James Cooper (Lib., Sudbury) asked Mr. Heenan if he knew the names of the men who were putting up the money for Mr. Sweezy.

"He told us some names, but I don't think it is material who they were," replied the Minister.

"How much did they offer to put up?" said Mr. Cooper. "Two and a half million dollars, about," said Mr. Heenan.

Colonel Drew then asked that Mr. Heenan make public the names of the men who offered to support the plan.

"I don't want to make the names public, I don't think it is important," insisted Mr. Heenan. "But if the committee rule I must, then I am quite willing to do so."

"I definitely want to make the names public," said Colonel Drew.

"I will first ask Mr. Sweezy if he gave me the names in confidence, and if he says not I will release them," said Mr. Heenan. "Mr. Sweezy has nothing do about deciding what is important or what should be published in this case. Those names should be in the record."

Awaits Ruling.

"I think that out of this committee should come some recommendation that will prevent such disastrous collapses as that of the Sulphite Company," continued Colonel Drew.

Mr. Heenan refused to give the names of the financiers involved, and Colonel Drew appealed to Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines, and chairman of the committee, for a ruling. Mr. Leduc said that he would give his ruling at the next meeting of the committee on Tuesday morning.

Colonel Drew then read from the recommendation sent by Mr. Heenan to the Lieutenant-Governor, advising that an Order-in-Council be passed giving the Sulphite Company power to organize and use Crown lands.

"The company brings with it a sufficiency of capital to ensure the full realization of its project," read Colonel Drew. "Those are your own words, Mr. Heenan, and I want to know what information you had to write that recommendation, as the company failed yesterday."

"I see your point, Colonel," replied Mr. Heenan, "and if the committee rules I will make the names of the men public. They were men of high financial standing in Toronto and Montreal."