

FEBRUARY 8

Would Protect Tenant If Owner in Arrears

A Municipal Franchise Act to clarify existing legislation may be introduced in the Legislature next session after a study to be given the whole question, Hon. Eric Cross, Minister of Municipal Affairs, said yesterday.

Discussion of the question arose when the Legislature sent to a committee a bill introduced by Louis Hagey (Lib., Brantford), designed to remove from a tenant the disqualification clause under which he comes if he sits on a municipal Council and his landlord has not

paid the taxes on the premises he occupies.

Mr. Hagey said it was felt that such persons should not be ineligible merely because of the default of the landlord in paying the taxes.

"Is this, in effect, a Government measure?" asked Conservative Leader George Drew.

Mr. Cross explained that it was not sponsored by the Government. He was in sympathy with the purpose of the bill and endorsed it in principle. The whole question was under consideration at the present time and might eventually lead to legislation.