

# APPROVE PLAN FOR SEPARATE SCHOOL UNION

Most of Metropolitan Area Is Amalgamated Into Twelve Wards

TO EQUALIZE COSTS

A twelve-ward separate school area, taking in all of the Toronto metropolitan area with the exception of Mimico, New Toronto and Sections 11 and 12 of Etobicoke Township, was approved yesterday by the Legislative Private Bills Committee in the face of opposition led by a group of Conservative members.

The bill, which amalgamates eleven separate school boards in the present setup, is to come into effect by proclamation not later than June 30, and after a hearing has been granted by the Ontario Municipal Board to enable the suburban boards or any others to voice objections, if any.

The hearing provision was drafted into the bill on the recommendation of Alfred J. B. Gray, chief supervisor of the Department of Municipal Affairs. On his recommendation also, powers of the new Toronto and Suburban Separate School Board, such as adjustments of assets and liabilities in the local boards, as between its ratepayers, are subject to the approval of the Municipal Board. Mr. Gray also advised that the department "had a lot to do" in bringing forth the principle of the bill.

### Will Reduce Costs.

According to Arthur Kelly, separate school representative on the Toronto Board of Education, all separate school education in the metropolitan area is given in the Toronto separate schools, although there are separate school boards in ten of the suburban municipalities, whose sole duty is to look after the pupils in their sections who are attending school in Toronto. The amalgamation would reduce costs and would have the effect of providing direct elective representation to all separate school supporters on the new and proposed board, he said.

The bill provides for the appointment of an assessment equalization commission to provide that the dollar contribution to separate schools be the same in each municipality, and for the use of the regular municipal election machinery for the election of trustees from the twelve wards. In event of an acclamation in any municipality or in any ward of a municipality, in the general elections, the separate school supporters must bear the cost of their own election.

As the municipalities do not hold elections on the same dates, the bill provides that separate school tallies be sealed until the vote is counted in the final election.

W. J. Stewart (Con., Parkdale), in a representation "on behalf of certain public school supporters," questioned particularly if the proposal would draw any further money from the public schools, and was advised by the committee and law authorities that the bill "left the separate schools' share on the present basis."

# Wants Planning Commission Formed for Ontario Centres

Immediate creation of an Ontario Town and Country Planning Commission to meet problems arising from the re-establishment of communities which will be flooded out by the St. Lawrence Power and Seaway dam, was proposed yesterday in the Legislature by Col. George A. Drew.

The Conservative Leader introduced the proposal in resolution form as a notice of motion. While Colonel Drew said the commission's need arose particularly from the St. Law-

rence development, its functions would apply in any part of the Province.

For some time, it is known that a Planning Commission has been under the Government's consideration and, about a month prior to the session opening, Premier Hepburn received a Toronto Metropolitan Area deputation which asked for the formation of a planning body. In event such a commission is formed, it is understood that it will be placed under the Department of Municipal Affairs.

# Hepburn's Ads Cost \$21,381.10

The advertisement, "These Are the Facts," in which the Ontario Government reprinted extensive excerpts from the proceedings of the Dominion-Provincial Conference of last January, cost \$21,381.10, according to a return tabled yesterday in the Legislature.

The information was given in response to questions by Opposition Leader Drew. The answer said the advertisement was authorized by Premier-Treasurer Hepburn and was handled through the James Fisher Advertising Company.

### Gardhouse Approves.

A. Holly Acres (Con., Carleton) said he did not oppose the bill in principle, but argued that it should be made a part of general legislation rather than a private bill affecting the one area only. Rev. W. A. Downer (Con., Dufferin-Simcoe) declared: "I think we have been beating about the bush. After all, it is a question of the separate school authorities wanting special concessions again. This is no time for the opening of old sores—let us stand united."

T. A. Murphy (Con., Woodbine) moved that the entire bill be referred to the Municipal Board, and the motion was lost. W. J. Gardhouse, West York Liberal, whose riding is largely affected by the bill, said his personal survey found no objection to it.

The Lake Shore municipalities, it was explained, asked for leave to remain out of the section until it was determined whether or not they could effect amalgamation. The new section comprises Wards 1 to 9, corresponding to the numbers of the Toronto wards. Ward 10 takes in Etobicoke with the exception of Sections 11 and 15, Long Branch, Swansea and Weston; Ward 11, Forest Hill and York; and Ward 12, East York, Leaside, North York and Scarboro'.