

ASSAIL FIXING OF RETAIL PRICE BY MILK BOARD

'Retrace Our Steps' or
Govern All Products,
Leopold Macaulay Says

STUDY ENTIRE ACT

Revision of the Milk Control Board powers, to strengthen the protection given to farmers and to remove the authority to fix retail prices, was advocated yesterday in the Legislature by Leopold Macaulay (Con., South York).

Short of abolishing powers to direct retail milk prices, Mr. Macaulay urged unqualified consumer representation on the board. "I contend," he said, "that consumer interest should be protected by statute and by representation on the board."

In support of his plea to "take away the arbitrary power to fix retail prices," he added: "Unless the Government is prepared to go out and tackle the retail trade, fix the price of bread and a score of other items, we might as well retrace our steps and stop fixing the retail prices of milk."

The Milk Control Act was given its second critical analysis of the season when an amending bill was given second reading. Premier Hepburn and Hon. P. M. Dewan, Minister of Agriculture, assured the House, that, in committee stage, an entire section would be withdrawn—a section which would have enabled the board to direct dairies to collect Milk Producer Association membership fees from each farmer supplying milk and to pay the amounts to the association.

The section was attacked sharply from both sides of the House in previous debate.

"I am not in favor of repealing the act," said Mr. Macaulay. "The act was properly directed in the first place to protect the farmers against fly-by-night distributors and secondly to see that the farmers get paid enough. In these I am in full accord, and, to that end, the act should be strengthened and supported."

He cited that, at the beginning of the year, the board invited the Burlington interests down to Queen's Park for the purpose of increasing prices in that town. The trade's representatives did not want the increase. Then, said Mr. Macaulay, reading from a report of the board's order of Feb. 23, a price increase in the Burlington area was made by extending the Hamilton area to Burlington.

"It was done," he charged, "because the big dairies in Hamilton couldn't compete in Burlington. The Burlington dairies were able to sell at a lower rate. But here's the point. The price to the farmers remained the same. The order was not passed to help any producer."

SEEK CHANGES IN TAXING ACT

Private Bills Committee
Makes Recommendations

A bill containing amendments to the Assessment Act was presented to the Legislature yesterday by Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Municipal Affairs, who stated that the amendments were the results of a number of recommendations made to the Private Bills Committee by various municipalities.

One provided for alterations in the system of municipal bookkeeping which would permit the use of mechanical equipment in preparing the assessment rolls and would also reduce the number of columns required for the rolls.

Municipalities may be divided into areas, by local by-law, which will permit the allotment of different days for the payment of taxes, by installment or otherwise, for the various areas. This staggered system of collection will enable the larger municipalities to effect a saving, as less clerical assistance will be required.

Ask Pedestrians Use Reflectors

The suggestion that pedestrians on public highways be made to wear a red reflector or some distinguishable sign on their backs after nightfall was made in Legislature yesterday by William Duckworth (Toronto Dovercourt). During the consideration of the Motor Vehicles Act in committee Mr. Duckworth stated that many accidents occur on the highways after nightfall because motor car drivers are unable to see the pedestrians along the side of the road.

"The trouble is," said Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, "that not only must we devise some device that answers the purpose, but it must be something that the pedestrians will use."