

March 28

BILL MAY STRIP MUNICIPALITIES OF ALL POWER

Seek Full Control by Ontario Government; Bitter Opposition Seen

Extension of the supervisory powers by the Department of Municipal Affairs over municipalities—to a degree, according to legislative authorities that would strip the municipalities of their last vestiges of independence—is sought in an amendment to the Department of Municipal Affairs Act placed before the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Hon. T. B. McQuestion.

Mr. McQuestion, Minister of Municipal Affairs and of Highways, did not give an explanation of the bill when he introduced it to the House. It is stressed by critics that even the Ontario Municipal Board is made subject to the determination of the department by terms of the bill.

The present act provides that the department shall exercise general oversight over municipal institutions and their administration. The amending legislation would delete the word "institutions" and say that "the department shall exercise general oversight over municipalities and their affairs and shall, in respect of any municipality, have control and charge over the performance of its duties and obligations."

In the second amending clause, having reference to the power of the Minister, the bill states: "There shall be a Department of Municipal Affairs, over which the Minister shall preside and the Minister shall have the power to act for and on behalf of the department."

Leopold Macaulay, Acting Leader of the Conservative Opposition, when asked last night about the bill, suggested after a brief survey of its clauses that it was "very broad." Members questioned indicated that its passage could not be effected without intense opposition rising from both sides of the House.

DAY NURSERIES AS WAR MOVE SOUGHT IN BILL

Legislature Plans Aid for Mothers Engaged in Armament Work

A move to permit the Department of Public Welfare to set up and assist in the establishment of day nurseries for the care and feeding of young children whose mothers are engaged in war work, was made in the Legislature yesterday in an amendment to the Public Welfare Act. The bill was introduced by Hon. Marquhar Oliver, minister of the department, and was given first reading.

Mr. Oliver explained that the bill gives the department power to not only supervise these day nurseries or creches, but to step in and establish additional ones if the emergency becomes more aggravated in future.

Another bill introduced by the Minister of Welfare and given first reading permits a judge or a magistrate who makes an order for maintenance under the Deserted Wives and Children's Maintenance Act, to require the person against whom the order is made to report regularly to a probation officer that he is keeping up the payments as ordered. This provision applies only where the person for whose benefit the order is made is a public charge or is likely to become a public charge if the order is not complied with.

Acting Opposition Leader Macaulay said there did not appear to be enough machinery in the act to aid in finding out the whereabouts of an erring husband, and for this reason deserted wives often found themselves penalized by not being able to qualify under the act. Mr. Macaulay advocated the department giving help to wives in these circumstances.

Mr. Oliver said the department was considering a general plan which would include this problem.

Fourth M.P.P. Joins Army

A fourth member of the Ontario Legislature will "go active" when Alex Elliott, youthful Peterborough lawyer, leaves next week for Brockville to take an officer's training course. Mr. Elliott is at present on leave from the Prince of Wales Regiment, which was mobilized for active service recently.

Other Provincial legislators at present in the armed ranks are Major Colin Campbell and Lieutenant Dave Croll, both overseas with the Canadian Corps, and Pilot Officer Allan Lamport, stationed at a Royal Canadian Air Force training base in the Province. Major Campbell is member for Sault Ste. Marie; Lieutenant Croll for Windsor-Walkerville, and Pilot Officer Lamport for Toronto-St. Davids.