

# Labor Bargaining Bill Introduced by Heenan

Some Changes Made From Committee's Report  
—Labor Court Bill Also Brought In by Conant

The long-awaited collective bargaining bill for labor made its appearance in the Legislature yesterday, minus some of the important recommendations contained in the report of the committee tabled in the House last week. The bill was given first reading.

It contains no stated penalties for infringement of its provisions, but provides that the Labor Court may restrain a person from continuing a violation, directs that the act's provisions be complied with and orders the reinstatement of any person discharged from employment contrary to its provisions. Other orders in this connection may be made by the court as it deems proper.

The Conant Government also defined an employer as one employing, within the Province, "one or more persons."

An amendment to the Judicature Act was introduced by Premier Conant, empowering the creation of the Labor Court. Labor Minister Heenan introduced the bargaining bill.

Mr. Heenan's introduction of the bargaining measure was the signal for Opposition efforts to obtain from the Minister information as to whether the bill differed from the committee's recommendations. Mr. Heenan said he would discuss the bill section by section on second reading. As to the changes, he said: "Some would think there are no substantial changes and others would think it is a new bill entirely."

## Macaulay Asks Return.

Leopold Macaulay (Prog. Con., South York) gave notice of motion concerning a resolution as follows: "That there be laid before this House a return showing all correspondence, telegrams, and written communications in regard to compulsory bargaining received by the Government or any member thereof since March 24, 1943."

Mr. Macaulay's motion will be debated Monday although a similar motion has already been ruled out of order by Speaker Clark on the ground that it was contrary to public policy. Mr. Macaulay declared the Opposition would have to conduct its business in future "right down the middle of a technical highway," and declared that the ruling of the Speaker constituted an "injustice" to the Opposition.

Omission from the bill of any

penalties caused comment outside the House. Its tenor was that "all the sharp teeth have been withdrawn from the bill." On the other hand, Premier Conant told newspapermen following adjournment that the provisions strengthened the bill.

Under the terms of the bill now before the Legislature, the Summary Convictions Act does not apply.

A provision defines collective bargaining as "negotiation in good faith looking to the conclusion of a collective bargaining agreement." A union is defined as "any trade union or other association of employees which has collective bargaining among its objectives, but shall not include any such union or association the administration of which is dominated, coerced or improperly influenced by the employer in any manner whether by way of financial aid or otherwise." This outlaws company-dominated unions.

## No Appeal Provided.

The Labor Court is given exclusive jurisdiction to examine into, hear and determine all matters and questions arising under the act and "no appeal shall lie from a decision of the court."

The Judicature Act amendment setting up the Labor Court is a brief bill which sets out "that there shall be a branch of the High Court of Justice for Ontario to be known as the Labor Court of Ontario which shall exercise such jurisdiction as may be conferred upon it by any act of this Legislature," Opposition Leader George Drew sought to learn from Premier Conant whether it was proposed to set up a "one-judge court." Col. Drew said the Opposition was entitled to this information.

"In the committee's recommendations the Chief Justice of Ontario was to appoint a justice of the Supreme Court to be the Labor Court," said Col. Drew.

"This is not the stage to deal with that," replied the Premier.

When L. M. Frost (Prog. Con., Victoria) put the same question to the Premier a little later, the latter answered that it would be a "one-judge" court.

This section has been changed to read: "Nothing in this act shall be construed to give an employee the right to work for or to attempt to organize a collective bargaining agency in his working hours." The reference to premises of the employer has been dropped from the bill.

Mr. Macaulay's motion for documents received by the Government since March 24 caused considerable discussion. He insisted that he was in order, stressing that he was not going back to the time of the first announcement of a bargaining bill.

"What is the object of tabling a few carloads of resolutions and telegrams from all over the country, practically all in favor of collective bargaining?" was the reply.