

just as well not have been passed a year ago, for nothing has been done."

Big Enough Headache.

The proxies should have been sent to the persons who would use them, Mr. Frost asserted. The problem of taking servicemen's votes constituted a big enough headache without having the Government add to them, he said.

"Does my hon. friend say that before calling an election, we should send out a flock of proxies?" asked Highways Minister McQuesten.

"Certainly, I do," retorted Mr. Frost. "There have been no proxies printed other than a proxy for a vote on liquor questions. The Government found time to prepare this type of proxy, but nothing was done about the proxy for a general election or filling the vacant seats."

In continuing the debate on the motion, Premier Conant informed the House that arrangements had been made to have proxy forms available for distribution to the proper members of the active service forces.

Reading further from the memorandum prepared by Major Lewis and Mr. Common, the Premier said: "Arrangements have been concluded with G. H. Ward, secretary of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in London, England, to supervise the distribution of proxy forms to active service voters overseas. The Department of National Defense at Ottawa has been very co-operative in arranging to facilitate the distribution of proxy forms through the officers commanding the various centres in which troops are located throughout Canada and overseas. Within a comparatively short time proxy appointment forms will be in the hands of duly appointed agents throughout Canada and overseas for distribution to those applying for them. To further facilitate the matter under the regulations, relatives or friends of extra-Provincial service voters may obtain proxy appointment forms from the clerks of the peace and other appointed agents throughout Ontario to forward to those entitled."

Member of Committee.

The Premier pointed out that Mr. Frost was a member of the committee which drafted the bill passed last year and several of his suggestions were adopted.

"To undertake at the present time to amend the act in any important particular would result in delay which would make it practically impossible to protect the soldiers' vote in any election during the current year," said Mr. Conant.

"His plan is impractical and absurd," continued the Premier, referring to Mr. Frost's proposal for a direct vote, eliminating the proxy system.

"The nut of the problem is the time element," said Mr. Macaulay. "How soon before a general election can proxies be sent out? Sixty days before is wholly inadequate. You can't prepare for a vote for the men in Ontario until the House is dissolved. It requires a minimum of 32 days from the time of issuing the writ until the election, and, while it is possible to take the vote of the men in the Province, it is a denial of right to the men overseas to have to wait 33 or 60 days before an election for proxies to be sent overseas."