

March 15

Bill Appoints Father Quints' Sole Guardian

The Dionne Quintuplets of Callander, who have been wards of the King and the Ontario Government since soon after their birth 10 years ago, May 28, hereafter will be under the sole guardianship of their father, Oliva Dionne, under provisions of a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell. The Ontario courts will continue, however, to pass on all contracts entered into by the Quints, or their renewal.

The Attorney-General explained to the House that the children had been under the guardianship of a board consisting of their father, Judge J. A. Valin and the official guardian, Judge Valin's resignation through advancing age, he said, "seemed to create a proper time to review whether the nature of the present guardianship is suitable."

Under One Roof.

"After a long and protracted struggle," said Mr. Blackwell, "Mr. Dionne now has all the members of his family under one roof instead of in two separate units. (The Quints had been housed in separate quarters from the rest of the Dionne family.) It appeared to the Government that intervention in their affairs should not persist beyond what was necessary, and that this should continue only where it was demonstrably necessary."

Under the bill, he added, Mr. Dionne would become the sole physical guardian of the Quints.

"This family," he said, "will be restored to a normal family life, with the Government and the courts intervening only where necessary." The move "will substantially reduce

the overhead to which the family has been subjected."

The Government's move was result of personal meetings he had had with Mr. Dionne, said the Attorney-General. Mr. Dionne had expressed satisfaction with the draft bill and he had said in a letter that he was satisfied.

The bill, vesting guardianship in Oliva Dionne, repeals existing legislation relating to the Quintuplets and their guardianship. In providing for the passing of the accounts of the present guardians, the payment out of court of the amounts required for the maintenance of the Quintuplets and similar matters, the established practice of the court is prescribed. The only exception is the provision requiring court approval of all contracts or renewals.

Mr. Dionne becomes the Quints' sole guardian from July 1 and until the girls reach the age of 21. Each of the Quints is deemed to have a one-fifth interest in their property.

The bill was given first reading without comment.

Urges Plans Be Made To Take Soldier Vote

The question of the soldier vote in the Haldimand-Norfolk by-election was again raised in the Legislature yesterday when C.C.F. Leader E. B. Jolliffe asked Premier George Drew if Ontario could make arrangements with Ottawa to have this vote taken along the lines of the vote recently held in Red Deer, Alta. In that by-election polling booths were set up in the camps in the riding and soldiers with more than two months' residence were given a vote.

"I quite realize that soldiers and airmen and their families living in the riding in the ordinary way will be able to vote," said Mr. Jolliffe. "But no provision has been made for active service personnel within the camps and that would necessitate arrangements with the Dominion Government. I suggest that it is not too late to arrange with Ottawa to have the vote taken in those camps in the riding."

"A clear distinction must be drawn between men in the camps and men outside the camps," replied the Premier. "If they come from the riding, then the fact that they are in camp would not deny them the right to vote. There is no reason why a man whose normal place of residence is 100 or 1,000 miles from the riding should have special machinery set up for him to vote in a riding where he is not resident."

"If there was a general election then these men would have the right to vote for some other riding," said the Premier. "In a general election these active service members would vote for candidates in the ridings from which they came. I cannot see the weight of the argument for them to vote in a riding which is not theirs at all. Any member of the forces who is qualified to vote can do so by being sworn in and those who do not find it convenient to be sworn in, can vote at an advanced poll."

Mr. Jolliffe wanted to know what the distinction was between an air force man living outside his station and one living in the camp. He added that probably one was single and the other married. Every man in or out had the right to vote, he maintained.

"A person living outside of the camp has taken up residence in the riding and to that extent, has become a resident," said the Premier. "A man in the camp who has not established residence still has the right to vote elsewhere and in a general election his right would be established. We haven't limited the right of any man in any way."