

## Approval Given By Committee To Election Act

Ontario's new Active Service Election Act, giving the direct vote in Provincial elections to active service personnel and providing the proxy vote for prisoners of war, passed through committee stage in the Legislature yesterday, with amendments that satisfied Opposition requests for improvement of the original measure.

The act follows the Dominion Elections Act—the War Service Voting Regulations, 1944—as closely as possible, Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell explained, and the regulations must be certified by the chief election officer of Ontario to this effect.

Most important difference between the new Ontario act and the Dominion Act is a provision in the Provincial measure by which the soldier voter does not make his declaration as to his electoral district, etc., on an envelope which contains his ballot. Instead, he will be sworn by affidavit and will then place his ballot directly into the ballot box, thus ensuring full secrecy of the ballot.

### Opposition Approves

Opposition Leader E. B. Jolliffe said his group regarded the amendments as a "substantial improvement on the original bill, because it relates it to the Dominion law, which is on the statute books and can be referred to at any time." He thought, however, an effort should be made to incorporate it in Ontario statutes and to reach an agreement with the Dominion Government to include sections which would be operative in a wartime election. To a question by Robert Laurier, Lib., Ottawa East, Mr. Blackwell said the proxy vote for prisoners of war would be cast by their next of kin, as listed by military authorities.

W. B. Reynolds (Prog. Cons., Leeds) was chosen chairman of the House Committee of the Whole for this session.

Two bills introduced by Health Minister R. P. Vivian also were advanced to committee, one to facilitate police aid in apprehending patients escaped from mental hospitals. Police officers are loath to accept an order for help from superintendent under the present system, Dr. Vivian said.

The bill amending the Mental Hospitals Act will give superintendents power to issue warrants.

A bill amending the Children's Protection Act provides for medical attention for pupils neglected by parents — pupils excluded from school because of communicable skin infections, for instance, Dr. Vivian explained.

## Ruled Out of Order, MPP Leaves House Should Be Spanked, Hepburn Remarks

Ruled out of order by Speaker W. J. Stewart, William J. Duckworth (P. C., Toronto-Dovercourt) failed to heed the warning and continued to speak in the Legislature yesterday. Premier Drew conferred briefly with him and Mr. Duckworth then left the Chamber, followed shortly after by the Premier.

The incident brought from Liberal House Leader Mitchell F. Hepburn, amid general laughter, the suggestion that the Premier "spank the unruly member out in the front yard so all can see."

To this Provincial Secretary George H. Dunbar replied: "Those

of us who have been here for some years have seen members who could better have been led out of the House."

Questioned by Aurelien Belanger (Lib., Prescott) about an article by Beverley Baxter, British M.P., in the Montreal Standard Dec. 9 concerning remarks allegedly made by Premier Drew on his recent visit to England, the Premier said: "I have no recollection of making any such statement." The purported statement was to the effect that Premier Drew desired British stock in Ontario as the one thing "that can keep French-Canadian pressure within bounds."