

March 2.

# Opposition Wants Further Changes In Election Act

When Ontario's new revised and consolidated Election Act, 1945, was given second reading in the Legislature yesterday, both C.C.F. and Liberals gave notice that they would move for further amendments when the bill goes into committee today. The C.C.F. will demand reduction of the voting age from 21 to 18. Liberals will press for retention of "vouching" rights in rural communities whereby any one left off the voters' list may be vouched for by any one on the list on election day.

William C. Riggs (C.C.F., Windsor-Walkerville) declared he would put the House on record on the voting age issue.

Harry C. Nixon (L., Brant) gave notice that he would press for restoration of the "vouching" provision, which had been long appreciated but never abused in rural areas.

## Fight at 18

"Boys of 18 can be conscripted, but they can't vote on the economic system under which they're going to live," said B. E. Leavens (C.C.F., Woodbine), urging voting age reduction to 18. "If they're old enough to fight at 18, why deny that they have intelligence enough to vote? There should be no question of lowering the voting age."

Attorney-General Blackwell explained that the act gives all members of the armed services the franchise in Provincial general elections irrespective of age, and also guarantees to them continuation of that right, won by their war service, when they return to civilian life.

Answering a question by Leslie Hancock (Ind., Farmer-Labor, Wellington South), about voting rights of Canadian-born Japanese from British Columbia who are in Ontario, Mr. Blackwell said if they were British subjects they would enjoy the same rights as British subjects.

Health Minister Dr. R. P. Vivian introduced a bill amending the Public Health Act to enable medical officers of health to ensure proper conditions in homes for aged and infirm. It provides also for licensing cold storage plants and for health regulations at swimming pools.

## Housing Standards

A bill to give municipalities the right to set minimum housing standards was introduced by William Dennison (C.C.F., Toronto-St. David). It would extend an act which now applies only to the City of Toronto.

A bill to amend the Public Works Act passed committee stage. It provides for payment of 5 per cent interest on compensation from the time land or property is "taken, used or injuriously affected," unless the sum originally offered is equal to or greater than the final compensation.

Sharp protests over an article in the Canadian Tribune, organ of the Labor-Progressive Party, were voiced by Garfield Anderson (CCF, Fort William) and Mr. Dennison. Mr. Dennison said the paper should be called "The Liebune," because "it distorts the news and does deliberately spread lies to deceive the people as to what is going on in this House."

The Tribune article complained of, said Mr. Anderson and Mr. Dennison, had "followed a policy which gave aid and comfort to Tories."

## C.C.F. Amendments

The Voters' List Act, 1945, went through the House in Committee piloted by Mr. Blackwell. A number of C.C.F. amendments to various sections were offered, and these will be taken up in committee. One proposed amendment submitted by Garfield Anderson (C.C.F., Fort William), was interpreted by Mr. Blackwell as intending to remove the property qualification as a right to a municipal vote.

Kelso Roberts (P.C., Toronto-St. Patrick), spoke on the single transferable vote, during discussion on the Election Act. He believed that with three major political parties in the field, and likely to be there for some time to come, the transferable vote is necessary to reflect the true will of the electorate.