

# HIGHWAYS MINISTER MAY ORDER REMOVAL OF GASOLINE PUMPS

## Opposition Members Protest Amendment as Giving Autocratic Power

### POWER CONTRACT DENIED

The Ontario Legislature furthered its routine business yesterday to the extent of giving second reading to eleven bills, and passing six other measures through the House in committee stage.

Discussion centred chiefly on Hon. George S. Henry's amendment to the Highways Improvement Act of 1926. The Minister explained several sections of this measure, which was finally passed by the House in committee.

In one part of the bill, he emphasized, the Government sought to regulate certain gasoline pumps constructed on the highways of the Province. The section directed that the Minister of Highways could order the removal of trees, shrubs, bushes, fences, signboards, gasoline pumps or other objects on lands adjacent to highways, where the safety or convenience of the travelling public so required or where the objects in question caused snow to pile up so as to injure the highway roadbed.

Opposition members protested that this seemed to vest the Minister with autocratic power. But Mr. Henry explained that under the section his department sought particularly to eliminate "a great many gasoline pumps" which had been erected prior to the adoption of regulations.

#### Mr. Henry Explains.

Highway rules required that gas pumps be at least five feet within private property lines adjoining the highways, so as not to interfere with traffic. But, said Mr. Henry, many pumps had been installed before these regulations were enacted, and this amendment gave the Government power to have such pumps removed.

He noted, in passing, that there was a ratio of fees for gas pumps, and that those distant from the curb of the highway were not taxed as much as were those near the curb.

One section dealt with isolated bridges, and was to clear up "an anomalous position," clearly defining which bridges shall come under the responsibility of counties and which shall be governed by municipalities and townships.

A further section empowered the Government to give the same assistance to Indian reserves for roadwork in the reserves as to other districts.

#### Mortgagee Registration.

Second reading was given to the act to amend the Vendors and Purchasers Act of 1926. In this connection, F. G. McBrien (Conservative, Toronto Brockton) explained that the amendment was to rectify the situation existing under a section of the act governing the payment for registering a mortgage given back as part of the consideration. This section did not conform with the custom in Ontario. The amendment provides that, when mortgages are given back as part of the consideration, cost of registration must be borne by the mortgagee.

An amendment to the Cemetery Act was given second reading, A. P. Mewhinney (Liberal, Bruce North), its sponsor, explaining that it was to empower villages, as well as cities and towns (provided for in the act), to make collections for the maintenance of cemeteries.

#### Fire-Protection Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, explained, when his amendment to the Railway Fire Charge Act, 1925, was given second reading, that the Province must get some revenue for protecting railway lands from fires. There had been difficulties encountered, said he, in locating railway lands, the department having met, in some cases, "with no assistance from the railways."

The amendment proposed that the charges, which were in some cases in arrears, should be distributed over the last few years in ratio paid by other railway companies and lumbering concerns.

An amendment to the Surveys Act, 1920, given second reading was, so Hon. Mr. Finlayson explained, a move toward the clarifying of the registration of records having to do with the extension of boundaries.

Several Opposition questions were dealt with by the Government. In several instances it was explained that only extended searches would

provide answers, and in these cases the time for such inquiries was extended.

Replying to Hon. W. E. Raney, Progressive Leader, Premier Ferguson gave details of the sinking fund period of Hydro power developments that are under the provisions of the Power Commission Act.

#### Sinking Fund Period.

In regard to power developments, he said, there was legislation before the House providing a sinking fund period of 40 years to unify the various periods now existent.

In reply to a question by C. Gardiner (Progressive, East Kent) Premier Ferguson stated that there was only legal opinion as to what amounts paid by the Province for expenditures by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission could be recovered by the Province.

Hon. Mr. Raney stated he understood that two and a half millions had been advanced in respect of power developments.

"If we succeed in recovering half of that," said Mr. Ferguson, "I'll be very glad."

#### Ottawa River Power.

Later, replying to a question by Mr. Raney, Mr. Ferguson stated that neither the Government nor the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission had made a contract with the National Hydro-Electric Company or any other Quebec company for the supply of power from a development to be made on the Ottawa River.

Provincial Treasurer Monteith explained to T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin) that the reason that certain expenditures for radio broadcasting two years ago, advertising the Province, were not paid then was that the accounts rendered did not give sufficient information. They were held until the next fiscal year for explanation and payment.

D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Bay) was told Sir Robert Falconer's salary as President of the university was \$10,000 a year.

#### Not Government Appointees.

Employees of the T. & N.O. Railway are appointed by the Railway Commissioners, not by the Government, and employees of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission are appointed by the Commission, not by the Government, Mr. Gardiner was informed.

R. H. Kemp (Progressive, Lincoln) was told that the members and salary of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission were as follows: C. A. Magrath, \$18,000 a year; C. A. Maguire, \$8,000 a year; Hon. J. R. Cooke, \$8,000 a year.

# EXPERTS ARE READY TO SERVE ON OR HELP THE FORESTRY BOARD

## No Idea of Depopulating Laurentian Territory, Says Minister of Lands

### SETTLERS NOT COERCED

Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, says there is absolutely no ground for misapprehension concerning the Government's new reforestation policy.

The Government has no thought of attempting to depopulate the Laurentian territory. It would be absurd, Mr. Finlayson says, to think of moving out the whole population. For there are many places where there are sections of land on which the settlers are doing fairly well. In addition to these, there are other localities where the population is required for tourist trade and for local industries. Everything of this kind will be respected and encouraged.

#### No Coercion.

It is only from absolutely barren spots, where the land is not suited for anything but the growth of timber, that the department hopes to be able to assist unfortunate settlers to better locations elsewhere.

"No coercion or force is thought of," said Mr. Finlayson yesterday; "but where there are a few stranded settlers in a township it is hoped they will co-operate with the Government in improving their condition by securing a location in good agricultural districts. Then it will be possible for the department to take over the township from which they have moved for forestation purposes."

Mr. Finlayson admits that the process will be a slow one, but he hopes that, after a number of successful migrations have taken place, the success of the experiment will encourage other settlers who are poorly located to apply for assistance in getting the same benefits.

"People who know most about the matter," declared Mr. Finlayson, "are well satisfied with our policy." The lumber industry in general, he said, had commended the scheme, and the pulp and paper industry, which, like the first-named industry, was consulted with regard to the provisions of the Forestry Bill which legalizes the project, have given their unanimous approval to it.

#### Foresters and the Bill.

Many expert foresters have offered to serve on or assist in the work of the new Forestry Board which the bill will bring into effect. Mr. Finlayson is very hopeful, he said, of getting Dean Howe of the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Toronto to serve on the board. Dean Howe gave material assistance in the drafting of the bill, as did Sir William Mulock, another practical forester.