

N. Kildonan Officials Mum On Union Bill

North Kildonan officials would offer no comment Friday on the suggested amalgamation of North Kildonan with East Kildonan.

A bill authorizing a referendum on the question received first reading Thursday in the legislature.

It is understood, however, that North Kildonan officials are opposed to the referendum.

The referendum bill was sponsored by D. R. Hamilton (L—Rupert's Land) at the request of Mayor J. L. Bodie of East Kildonan. Mr. Hamilton was absent from the House when the bill was brought in.

Mayor Bodie said Friday it was hoped electors would be able to vote on the referendum at municipal elections in October. He said the first request for amalgamation

was presented to East Kildonan council last year by means of a petition signed by 865 residents of North Kildonan's ward one.

When amalgamation was also suggested in the provincial-municipal aid report, council was pressed by the North Kildonan committee to request a referendum.

Mayor Bodie said the earliest date possible for final amalgamation, if the vote is favorable, would be Jan. 1, 1955.

Chairman of the committee which got up the North Kildonan petition, Gerry Leblance of 232 Hawthorne avenue, gave the Free Press the following reasons why the signatories wanted amalgamation:

- East Kildonan has a more progressive public works program.

- East Kildonan is in a better position to develop the sewage system so badly needed by the municipality.

- East Kildonan has high school facilities within the municipality while North Kildonan has not.

- East Kildonan's municipal offices are within walking distance of the municipality while North Kildonan's are located in the city.

- East Kildonan fosters industrial development to offset high taxation.

"Most of the improvements which have been carried out in North Kildonan have been done reluctantly by our council and only after money has been collected in advance," said Mr. Leblance.

The petition, he said, had been received favorably by East Kildonan council.

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