

Jan 29/02

Railways and Drains.

Mr. McLaughlin (Stormont) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal drainage act by providing for the assessment of railways for drainage work where such has to be diverted or is interfered with by the construction of said railways, necessitating extra cost to the owner or lessee of the land.

Hon. Mr. Gibson was inclined to the opinion that the proposed measure, which was similar to measures previously moved by other members of the House, was beyond the jurisdiction of the Legislature, as it seemed to go to the length of dealing with Dominion as well as other railways. While not prepared to pronounce definitely, as yet, on that point, it would be better, he thought, if the bill was fully discussed before being further advanced. This was agreed to.

The Medical Act.

Dr. Jessop (Lincoln) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Ontario medical act by changing the constitution of the Ontario Medical Council so as to have its membership elected by the profession at large. At present five members represent the homoeopathic practitioners, eight are the non-elected appointees of four medical colleges connected with Toronto University, Trinity University, Queen's University, and the Western University of London. The other seventeen are elected by the general practitioners of the Province. The bill also provides that the Board of Examiners shall be composed of one member from the following teaching bodies:—Toronto, Queen's, Trinity and Western Universities, and one each from every other university or teaching body of the Province now or hereafter empowered to grant medical or surgical certificates, and which maintains to the satisfaction of the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons a medical faculty; and not less than six members, one a homoeopathic practitioner, to be chosen from members of the last-named college, and who are unconnected with the other teaching bodies referred to.

Drastic Proposals.

Dr. McKay (South Oxford) said that the measure contained some very drastic proposals, and should not be advanced a stage without the most serious and careful consideration. It did not meet with his approval, nor did he think that the profession as a whole would endorse it.

The Premier said the measure was so important that he would like to hear a thorough discussion by the professional men in the House who had full knowledge of it.

Room for Reform.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said he had no particular sympathy with either of the competing wings of the profession regarding the subject of the bill. It had always seemed to him that there were representatives of the council who ought not to be there. He did not think it was a fair and reasonable thing—although it was a matter of domestic policy with the medical profession—that their institution should be represented on the council by ex-officio members. On this particular point he was not sure that some proposals of the bill were not in the right direction. It was perhaps unfortunate that the matter had been brought up in the House at the present time. The bill in some respect went too far. The question was worthy most serious and careful consideration, particularly by the professional gentlemen of the House, and it would be better that it should not be now advanced.

Dr. Pyne (East Toronto) said the present council was made up in the same manner as the councils in Britain, and it is the same method as would be adopted in the proposed Dominion Medical Council, which would come before the Dominion House this year. He thought the bill should go to committee.

Col. Matheson (South Lanark) urged that the bill go to committee for further consideration.

Mr. Graham (Brockville) said he had been requested by the representatives of the medical profession in Brockville to oppose the bill.

Milder Methods Suggested.

The Premier suggested reference of the bill to a special committee. That had been done with a somewhat similar bill in 1893, when important changes were made, which, he assumed, had been approved by the profession. He sympathized with the minority of the medical profession to the extent that he thought it seemed very drastic to say that a man who had been authorized by the Medical Board to practise medicine and surgery should for an arrearage of \$2 or more be disqualified from practising. He would have thought some other way could be found whereby the council could protect themselves without such drastic measures. There was no profession which went to such pains to keep up to the times. If the standard were allowed to fall it would be a great calamity. He was delighted to see the proposal for a Dominion council. He would like if there were some reciprocity between the Imperial medical service and the profession here. He moved that the bill be referred to a special committee to be named later on.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) said he had no sympathy with the members of the medical profession who did not pay their dues.

The bill was read a second time, to be referred to a special committee as suggested by the Premier.