

NURSES BILL HAS BEEN HELD OVER.

Some Suggestions to be Embodied as Amendments.

FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

Mr. John Smith of Peel Stands by His Bill.

Supported by Only Eight Other Members of House—Important Amendment to Hon. Mr. Beck's Telephone Bill—A Government Measure Withdrawn—Regret at San Francisco Disaster.

The galleries of the Legislative chamber were crowded yesterday afternoon and evening by nurses and their lady friends who are interested in the fate of the bill respecting the Ontario Graduated Nurses' Association, of which Mr. Thos. Crawford is the sponsor. The ladies followed with visible eagerness the discussion on the measure, which will come up again next week. There is no doubt that the act will be subject to considerable amendment before it is allowed to pass. As now drawn there is nothing to prevent every one of the fifteen members of the council being women, a grave objection in the sight of those who are opposed to an organization of such a public nature being controlled absolutely by women. It is further urged that, subject to fitness and moral character, all women who have been engaged in nursing for three years, whether trained in a hospital or not, and those now training, should, on completion of their course, be eligible for membership. The Government as the largest employer of nurses in the Province, and laymen also should, it is recommended, have representation on the council. Other objections advanced are that the council has the power to specify where nurses shall be trained and what initiation fee they shall pay. The annual fee is fixed at \$3, and it is thought that an initiation fee of about \$5 would be right. It is also held that the provision giving the council authority to cancel a nurse's certificate at any time should be amended so that this cannot be done without cause. It seems to be assured that most of these suggestions will be embodied as amendments and carried.

During the afternoon there was a spirited discussion on the motion for the second reading of Mr. Smith's (Peel) bill giving widows and spinsters votes in Provincial elections. Hon. Mr. Ross scored on the Premier, who displayed an unexpectedly petulant spirit in regard to this measure. An amendment of importance was made to Hon. Mr. Beck's municipal telephone system bill, and Hon. Dr. Reaume's act respecting colonization roads was withdrawn. It will likely be reintroduced next session.

Colonization Roads Bill Withdrawn.

Hon. Dr. Reaume withdrew the bill respecting colonization roads, previously explained at length, with the intimation that it would probably be reintroduced next session.

On the motion to ratify the agreement for the manufacture of woodenware at the Central Prison a somewhat lengthy debate occurred. Mr. Preston (Brant) pointed out that no provision for labeling prison-made goods had been inserted. The contract, he thought, was

likely still further to complicate the relation of free and prison labor. Another objection was that the Government was extending the contract system.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said that the manufacture of woodenware had been carried on for years, and with expensive machinery installed by the Government. The Provincial Secretary showed that direct manufacture by the Government had been unprofitable, and the purchase of natural had been attended with loss. No protest had reached the Government from labor circles.

Mr. Preston (Brant) thought the Government should have taken a broader view. Organization did not exist in these departments of labor, and they were not likely to be heard. The object of imprisonment was to reform the convict, and the work they did should be honest. Mr. Preston quoted United States official reports showing evils in this respect.

Mr. Graham believed the prime object of sending men to prison was to protect society and not to make money. They were there to be reformed, and not to be punished, and it was repugnant and abhorrent to him to farm out the labor of men like so many cattle. The system should not prevail in a Christian country. He would have carried out his ideas had he been allowed time.

Hon. Mr. Hanna declared that the men did not feel any such distinction as Mr. Graham had referred to, and many of them got good employment when they got free.

The motion was carried.

Widows and Spinsters.

Mr. John Smith was greeted with prolonged applause and laughter from all quarters of the House when he moved the second reading of his bill which gives to widows and spinsters the right to vote at Provincial elections. In a brief speech he recalled that a former member of the House had introduced the measure as far back as thirty years ago. As long as he (the speaker) had a seat in the House he would continue to support the measure.

Premier Whitney thought the bill should be considered seriously, and the sooner it was defeated the better. He accused the hon. gentleman of bringing forward the measure only because he had been charged in his last campaign with having failed to keep his promise to divide the House on it. The hon. gentleman who had introduced the measure hoped and believed it would be defeated, and he had brought it forward again simply to make the status of widows and spinsters a football between the two parties. The manner of introducing the bill with the hope that it would not get far was a burlesque and a farce; it was an insult to the women of the Province.

Premier Perhaps a Victim.

Hon. Mr. Ross rallied the Premier on the ungallant manner in which the leader of the Government had treated the bill. Perhaps he had been the victim of some woman's wiles, and was now getting even by denouncing the measure. The Premier's arguments were somewhat strange. He had criticized the gentleman who introduced the measure for his withdrawal of it last session, but the Premier himself, with a majority of forty at his back, had withdrawn his bill to repeal the manhood suffrage registration act, and this very afternoon the Minister of Public Works had withdrawn his act respecting colonization roads. That argued a lack of courage at any rate. Proceeding, he said the women of this country were not pursuing the Premier.

The Premier—I'm bound to say that they never have pursued me.

Hon. Mr. Ross—Open confession is good for the soul: I do not think the Premier will have to climb a tree. Concluding, Mr. Ross said he would not be surprised to see the bill become law eventually. In the meantime he would do as he had done before and vote against the bill.

Mr. Smith briefly declared he was in earnest in again introducing the bill. He had withdrawn it last session at the re-