

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1907.

COMBAT GREAT WHITE PLAGUE.

First Step Towards Effective
Legislation.

RAVAGES OF MALADY.

Provincial Board of Health to
Take Matter Up.

In Meantime Mr. Downey Withdraws
His Bill—Measure for Bonusing of
Hotels in Local Option Districts In-
terred in Legislative Graveyard.

"The great white plague is reaping a terrible harvest in Ontario," said Mr. J. P. Downey, member for South Wellington, yesterday, when moving in the Legislature the second reading of his bill to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. Figures were quoted freely indicating the world-wide scope and fearful effects of the malady. The bill was criticized by Mr. A. G. Mackay as being too local and unnecessarily expensive. The whole question should be made a Government measure, he said, "and dealt with from a Provincial standpoint." Hon. Mr. Hanna asked for the withdrawal of the bill for this session on the understanding that in the meantime the Provincial Board of Health would go into the question and inform the Government as to what may be necessary. Mr. Downey complied with the request.

The Premier just before adjournment said he hoped to be in a position tomorrow to suggest a manner of dealing with the numerous bills to amend the assessment act in such a way as to avoid the embarrassment and delay of dealing with them all separately. He also begged to move, with the consent of the leader of the Opposition—which Mr. Graham readily gave—that Government business be taken up on Mondays after the ordinary business had been disposed of. This means an effort to carry out the idea of getting through the work by the end of the month.

Killed by Hon. Mr. Hanna.

A bill to enable local option municipalities to bonus local option hotels for the accommodation of the public was moved to its second reading by Mr. Preston (Durham), but was killed by the Provincial Secretary, who congratulated the member for having called the attention of the Government to an important question.

For Mr. Kohler, who was absent, the Opposition leader, Mr. G. P. Graham, asked the following question: "What are the names of all immigration agents,

if any, sent to England, Ireland and Scotland since October 1st, 1906, the district and duties assigned and the remuneration allowed, or to be allowed, to each such agent?"

Hon. Mr. Monteith replied that the names were Jas. Thompson, John Farrell and John M. Clark. The remuneration for Mr. Thompson was \$150 a month and for the others \$125, and in addition their actual travelling expenses. Their duties were to induce farm laborers and domestic servants to come to the Province and to educate British tenant farmers as to the desirability of Ontario as a place for settlement. The appointments, added the Minister of Agriculture, were of a temporary character.

Mr. Preston (Durham) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the liquor license act. Mr. Preston would permit the municipalities to bonus hotels in local option districts. Local option had just been carried in 43 municipalities, cutting off 80 licenses. As a result accommodation would be cut off in many places for the travelling public. The problem on that was commanding the attention of temperance and commercial men. The bill provided that a place of 5,000 people or more could bonus hotels to the extent of \$2,000 in the aggregate; places of over 2,000 and under 5,000 could expend \$1,000 for such purpose; places of under 1,000 inhabitants \$500.

Hon. Mr. Hanna pointed out that there were places in which local option had not been carried, and in which no licenses existed. Why discriminate and give one the privilege and the other not?

The Last Objection Removed.

Mr. Preston replied that as a rule licenses existed where local option had not been carried. He would, however, be pleased to amend his bill to meet the point raised by the hon. Provincial Secretary.

"The last objection removed," commented Mr. G. P. Graham, with a twinkle of his eye.

The Provincial Secretary, in rising to more effectively kill the measure, congratulated the hon. member for Durham that he had directed the attention of the House to a very important question. It was a new proposition that would have to be considered.

Mr. Preston respected the wish of the Provincial Secretary, and withdrew his bill after expressing the hope that the Government would see its way clear to take the measure up next session.

To Fight Tuberculosis.

Mr. Downey moved the second reading of his bill to prevent the spread of tuberculosis by providing for the creation of County Boards of Health, whose duty, with the aid of the Provincial Board of Health, it shall be to take measures to keep in touch with persons suffering from consumption, provide them and their families with literature bearing on the disease and methods of combatting it; to remove patients where necessary to sanatoria; to take steps to build and maintain such institutions, and to make notification of the disease compulsory. Speaking to the measure, Mr. Downey regretted the general apathy on the question. He quoted figures as to the death rate from the disease in the new and the old world. Dr. Wm. Osler had given it as his opinion that in the United States to-day 1,250,000 people were afflicted with the disease. The loss on this and other continents in life and money from this disease were truly appalling. But these losses in the aggregate were often lost sight of in the deaths of the great geniuses of the world who fell victims to consumption. He gave a number of names of such men and women, and proceeding, devoted some time to an outline of the manner in which the Germans were fighting the disease. Upon this in part his own bill was based, particularly in regard to the sending out of literature for the guidance of tuberculosis sufferers and the establishment of local sanatoria. The results had been gratifying.

Compulsory Legislation.

Norway, however, stood as the model

for all countries in respect to anti-tuberculosis legislation. In that case compulsory notification of the disease was provided for by law. A great deal had been done in the United States in the encouragement of establishing State sanatoria, but so far little had been done in Canada or in this Province to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. The Legislature of Ontario had taken one important step by the passing of an act in 1900, making a grant of \$4,000 toward the establishment of municipal institutions to fight the disease. It was a matter of regret that only one municipality,

Hamilton, had taken advantage of that act. In alluding to the clauses demanding compulsory notification, Mr. Downey declared that everything else that was done by way of legislation would fail unless notification was made compulsory, so that the authorities would be at once able to take the steps the case and the nature of the surroundings warranted. Mr. Downey did not offer the bill as a final solution of a question which was pressing itself upon this and every deliberative body in the world to-day. He hoped that the House would take the matter into its earnest consideration with a view to measures to deal with an all-important question, and he moved that the bill be referred to a committee.

Suggested Government Measure.

Mr. A. G. MacKay thought the weakness of the bill was that it was too local and unnecessarily expensive. It should not be necessary to establish forty sanatoria and 40 secretaries at a salary of \$1,500 each. In view of the nature and importance of the work the boards should be as permanent as possible, and the work should be centralized more under Government control. The disease was not so prevalent in Ontario that it might not be dealt with in three or four or five Provincial institutions established on similar lines to the new normal schools. There was considerable to be said against county boards being able to compel County Councils to build sanatoria, and the creation of such powers would likely result in friction.

"It should be made a Government measure, and the whole matter dealt with from a Provincial standpoint," concluded Mr. MacKay.

Referred to Board of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hanna referred to the efforts of five central counties to secure five units of the Provincial grant, in all \$20,000, to build a sanitarium. The request appeared to be a reasonable proposition, but the idea was abandoned that one institution could serve five counties. It became a question whether a county institution was not dealing with too large an area. The patients required lots of fresh air, good food and a knowledge of hygienic conditions, and it did not require a very large investment. After all, the officers and machinery were the most important. The Board of Health of the Province had given the matter their attention. In fact, if he was not mistaken, they had already drafted something that could be readily put in the form of a bill. The Government was anxious that this matter should be taken, as well as to suggest a reorganization of the medical boards of health. He desired that Mr. Downey should withdraw his bill for this session, with the understanding that the whole matter be referred to the Provincial Board of Health, who will take it up actually with a view to informing the Government as to what should be done.

Mr. Downey agreed to the suggestion and formally withdrew his bill.