

in the rest of the Province," he remarked.

Sir James warmed up in speaking of the effect the bill would have on the relations of the Toronto Electric Light Company and the city. A representative of the company had told him that they rested their case upon the fact that under the provisions of the agreement with regard to the danger of poles and conduits they were given a practical monopoly of the streets of Toronto. "And that," he said, "is an impossible condition." Sir James closed by declaring that he had come to the conclusion that the Hydro-electric Commission being an expert body was better qualified to deal with such matters than another board. He warmly repudiated the statement that the Commission was in any sense a competing and operating body.

Only Common Sense Required.

Hon. Mr. MacKay, in reply, said he could not understand why such things as the laying out of lines of poles and lines was a matter only for electrical experts. "It is merely a matter of common sense," he remarked, "and if your Municipal Board cannot handle it, why, it's a pretty funny thing."

Work at Prison Farm.

Hon. Mr. Hanna gave an account of the work done in the way of establishing the Prison Farm at Guelph, and outlined the work contemplated for the current year. His address was in reply to a motion by Mr. Hugh Clark (Bruce) for an order for a return giving this information.

The Minister told of the receipts of the farm in produce. The dairy was a good source of supplies. The prisoners had been employed not only on the farm, but also in stone trimming and dimension work, and in building, and especially Hon. Mr. Hanna mentioned the concrete bridge built entirely by the prisoners. Many of these men obtained good positions after being discharged.

Mr. Allan Studholme told of the objections raised by labor unions to short-term prisoners being employed and taught trades, thus bringing them into competition with free labor.

URGE BETTER PROVISION FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED

DEPUTATION CALLS UPON PROVINCIAL SECRETARY AND ASKS PROMPT ACTION.

A deputation of persons interested in the care of the feeble-minded waited on the Provincial Secretary yesterday to urge upon the Government the need of prompt action in the interests of the people at large with regard to this matter.

The delegation was introduced by his Worship Mayor Geary of Toronto, and the speakers included Mrs. Lyle of Hamilton, Mrs. Archibald M. Huestis, Toronto; Dr. Charteris, Chatham; J. R. McNeillie, Lindsay; Sheriff Cameron, London; and Mr. J. M. Macdonell, K.C., Kingston; while other prominent members of the deputation were: Mr. Torrington, Toronto; Mr. Alex. Lewis, Toronto; Mr. Carter, Rev. Dr. Turnbull, Mr. S. Arnold, Rev. Father Minehan, and others.

Among the institutions and bodies represented were the Associated Charities, the Infants' Home, the National Council of Women, the Hamilton and West Algoma Local Councils, the Salvation Army, the Household Economic Association, Travel Clubs, the Culture Club, and various other interested organizations. The Municipal Committee room at the Legislative buildings was crowded with those earnestly desirous of urging immediate action on the Government.

Besides Hon. Mr. Hanna, there were a few of the members of the House present, including Dr. Smellie of Fort William and Mr. Allan Studholme.

After the case had been ably presented by the speakers, Mayor Geary

summed up the request of the deputation as amounting to this: that, as soon as it could be done, some system should be inaugurated of taking care of these people who have become a charge on the country and were likely to a greater charge through their children to come. He urged the need of almost immediate action.

Hon. Mr. Hanna, in reply, said he felt like one constant apology since coming into the room. There was this comforting fact, that the effectiveness of a deputation might fairly be measured inversely by the length of the speeches.

There were so many present, he said, that the fact of their coming, and coming in such numbers, as the outcome of a campaign for a year past in this Province, with Dr. Helen MacMurchy as one of its enthusiastic heads, whose work had attracted attention not only throughout the Dominion but beyond it, should mean some action on the part of the Government in the near future.

Dr. MacMurchy's Report.

Dr. Helen MacMurchy's fifth annual report to the Provincial Government on the "Care of the Feeble-minded in Ontario" for the year 1910 has been issued. The report reviews what has been accomplished, and goes into detail on the matters of the danger to the community and to posterity from allowing the feeble-minded to be unguarded and unprotected, the certain increase in their numbers, the possibilities for their greater happiness and usefulness if properly cared for, and the work done by various organizations in this direction. The transactions of public bodies in Europe and America, investigations into conditions of backward and defective pupils in Toronto schools, and a digest of public opinion, are also summarized.

The report concludes with the urgent suggestion of the need of Governmental prevention of the possibility of marriage between people who are mentally and physically unfit, and points out three steps which would be a beginning in this much-needed reform: an enumeration of mentally defective children in the schools, an oversight and control by the Provincial Secretary's Department of all feeble-minded persons who become a public charge or break the laws, and a gradual development of this policy in accordance with enlightened public opinion.