

# DOES FAVORITISM DETERMINE SALARIES?

## Mr. Dewart's Probe on Civil Service Increases

## IS IT FAMILY COMPACT?

Southwest Toronto Member Notes  
**Peculiar Placing of Contract for  
Drugs—Provincial Treasurer Fails  
to Explain.**

Mr. Hartley Dewart made members of the Government sit up and take notice in the Legislature last night when he called attention to the fact that the Deputy Registrar-General, "who seems to be a particularly favored child of fortune," was in for a salary increase of \$800, a raise of fifty per cent. He gave the name as James D. McGibbon, and commented that perhaps the reason for this excessive and seemingly unjustifiable increase was that the gentleman in question is a brother-in-law of the Assistant Provincial Secretary, Mr. Samuel A. Armstrong.

### Family Compact in Supplies?

Mr. Dewart also charged that the drugs for Government institutions all over the Province had been purchased at the drug store of another brother-in-law of Mr. Armstrong, namely, the McGibbon Retail Drug Store of Sarnia, where the Hon. J. J. Hanna and Mr. Armstrong come from. The total cost of the drugs was \$1,556, and they were sent to Government hospitals in Hamilton, Kingston, London, Mimico, Orillia, Penetang, Toronto, Woodstock and Guelph.

Mr. Dewart spoke to a resolution introduced by Mr. Charles M. Bowman, protesting that certain increases of salary recommended for civil servants were irregularly graded, excessive and hard to justify on principles of economy.

### Mr. Dewart's Warm Protest.

The Government treated Mr. Bowman's resolution and speech with such indifference that Mr. Dewart jumped to his feet and in angry tones said: "I think the observations of the hon. member for West Bruce call for something more than sullen silence on the part of this Government. I think it is time the attention of this House was called to this matter, and the Government should feel that this is a serious resolution. I am only a young member of this House, but I am quite surprised that we are asked to consider these estimates on such short notice and with such scant information before us." He did not think the civil servants had been treated fairly. Some of the Deputy Ministers were getting salary increases of \$300 and \$400 and \$500 a year, while other civil servants were getting a mere bagatelle. The Deputy Registrar-General seemed to be a particularly favored child of fortune. He was appointed in January, 1915, as successor to Mr. Usher, who closed forty-three years' service at \$1,600 per annum. Mr. James D. McGibbon succeeded him at \$1,600 and now is in for an increase of \$800 at one lick. He supervises two men who do the work—one at \$1,200 and one at \$1,000—"twenty-four hundred dollars for Mr. McGibbon," commented Mr. Dewart, "to supervise two men who get \$2,200."

### Mr. McGarry "Explains."

Hon. T. W. McGarry, Provincial Treasurer, who spoke on behalf of the Government, failed to offer any explanation or reply to the statements of Mr. Dewart regarding the \$800 salary increase for Mr. McGibbon, or the purchase of drugs from Mr. Armstrong's other brother-in-law. With regard to the salary increases generally, he said they were the first since the war began. Dur-

ing the last few months things had become so acute that the Government were petitioned by members of the civil service, stating that they found it impossible to live on the salaries they were receiving. It may be admitted there were inequalities, but, "of course, we will endeavor to arrange matters satisfactorily at another opportunity." He thought that the Government had been niggardly in the past. The increases now proposed were for three years, and, "if I had had my way, I would have been even more generous."

Mr. Elliott (West Middlesex) called the Government's scheme of salary increases a "hit-and-miss system."

### Prisoners to be Moved.

Hon. Mr. McPherson said in a fortnight the prisoners would be removed from Guelph prison farm to Burwash, and the Guelph institution would be used as a training place for returned soldiers.

Mr. John Grieve (North Middlesex) said he hoped they would have the prisoners removed before the soldiers went there, and the reply was that that would be done.

## TO KEEP TEACHERS IN THE PROFESSION

### Legislature Wrestling With Superannuation Bill

## CONSERVATIVE IS ANXIOUS

Fears if Educational Association  
Chose Majority of Commission  
They Would "Destroy This Govern-  
ment"—Hon. Dr. Pyne Hazy.

The teachers' superannuation bill, with a number of amendments, occupied the time of the Legislature for about a couple of hours last night. Hon. Dr. Pyne, in answer to questions, stated that the total salaries were \$9,500,000, and with the teachers paying 2½ per cent. and the Province 2½ per cent., that would make an annual contribution of \$475,000 to the fund. Of course there would be fluctuations.

Mr. Rowell—If \$475,000 is the annual income, what is the estimated annual expenditure under the bill?

Dr. Pyne replied that it was difficult to make a definite estimate, but he thought the fund would be continually increasing for the first seven or eight years.

### Minister Hazy on Estimates.

Mr. Rowell—What are the estimated lapses based on past experience? How many have dropped out at the end of one, two, three, four and five years?

Dr. Pyne—That is something very difficult to arrive at, and would only be an approximate estimate.

Mr. A. H. Musgrove (North Huron) then submitted a series of figures taken from the education report of 1915. These showed that 3,645 public school teachers taught six years and under. The average teaching service was eight years.

### Keep Teachers in Profession.

Dr. Pyne said one of the main objects of the bill was to make the teachers stay longer in the profession. It was an intricate subject, and the bill would need amendment from time to time. "But don't destroy the actuarial basis," he cautioned.

In the course of some discussion as to the actuarial soundness of the fund, Mr. Marshall (Lincoln) thought that since they had accepted the principle, the Province should pay the balance after the teachers have paid their 2½ per cent.