

NEED HOSPITAL FOR RECEPTION

Clearing Reception Institution
is Urged by Dr. Forbes
Godfrey, M.P.P.

Second reading was given in the Legislature yesterday to Hon. T. J. McGarry's bill providing for the appointment of a purchasing agent for the Province. The Provincial Treasurer said he believed the proposed new method of purchasing Government supplies would result in the saving of much money, and doing away to a large extent with the patronage system. In reply to Mr. Dewart (Southwest Toronto), who asked the Minister to give the House some idea of the machinery that would be necessary, Mr. McGarry said the purchasing agent would require a staff of five or six persons. He had no doubt there were officials now employed in other departments who could be transferred to the new department.

The House then went into Committee of Supply. Mr. MacPherson, Provincial Secretary, explained that small salary increases to members of the hospital staffs were to meet the increased cost of living. He believed the increases were general. Dr. Forbes Godfrey (West York) complained that the baker at the Toronto Hospital for the Insane had been given a raise in pay, while the baker in the Mimico Asylum had got none.

Wants Stricter Economy.

In connection with several items providing for large sums for additions to buildings and for the purchase of land, Mr. Proudfoot suggested that in view of the scarcity of money some of the proposed expenditures might well be deferred until after the war.

Dr. Godfrey vigorously urged the Government to establish a proper reception hospital in the Province, and Mr. MacPherson said the Whitby institution was equipped for that work, but was at present being used by the military authorities for hospital purposes. Dr. Godfrey wanted a clearing reception hospital for the whole Province. It was wrong, he said, that patients from outlying parts of the Province should be sent direct to an insane asylum, with all the stigma attached thereto, while patients from Toronto were first sent to a reception hospital for treatment. The Provincial Secretary explained that at present each insane asylum has its own reception hospital, and that as long as patients receive proper treatment it matters not in what institution they are confined. The incident was closed with a promise from Sir William Hearst that the matter would be given consideration by the Government.

Regarding a vote of \$2,000 in connection with field crop competitions, the Premier said that over 7,000 farmers in Ontario took part in the contest last year. The object was to encourage production, or more crops and better crops. The sum of \$39,000 (additional) was voted for district representatives of the Department of Agriculture, in order to provide a maximum salary of \$2,000, and for extension of the system. Practically every county in the Province now has an agricultural representative, said Sir William.

Hon. Mr Macdiarmid explained that it was proposed to erect an addition to the Hamilton Hospital for the Insane to accommodate 100 patients, and the sum of \$40,000 had been inserted in the estimates for that purpose.

WILL REFORM CIVIL SERVICE

Hon. I. B. Lucas Introduced
Provincial Measure Model-
led on Federal Enactment

NO COMPETITIVE TESTS

Civil Service reform in the Province is provided for in a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by the Attorney-General, Hon. I. B. Lucas. It is a measure patterned after the Dominion law, only in a modified form, the chief difference being that qualifying examinations are proposed for Ontario, instead of competitive examinations. A Civil Service Commissioner will be appointed, who will have charge of the examinations and the appointment of the necessary help. He will study the existing system and make further recommendations to the Legislature from time to time.

Mr. Lucas did not satisfy the Opposition leader, Mr. William Proudfoot, that the new law will do away with the existing patronage evil. "Will the Commissioner consider applications of any other than those who are recommended by the party in power?" asked Mr. Proudfoot.

Competitive Feature Absent.

"As I understand it the Civil Service at Ottawa provides that the competitive principle is to be adopted, and the man who stands the highest in the examination gets the appointment without recommendation from anyone," answered the Attorney-General. "We do not adopt that; all we require is a qualifying examination."

"You didn't answer my question yet," replied Mr. Proudfoot.

The bill provides for the appointment of a Civil Service Commissioner for the Province, and defines in general terms the scope of this official's duties. It is a one-man commission. Mr. Lucas pointed out, and not a three-man commission, as is customary. His position is permanent. It will be his duty to make a continuous survey of the different departments and from time to time report to the department heads and the House, with the view of making improvements in the general organization.

To Classify Civil Service.

"There is no classification, and never has been, of the Civil Service in Ontario," said Mr. Lucas. "It might be probable that it will be his duty to make a classification of the Civil Service, but until there is a classification the full measure of civil service reform is not possible here. It will be the duty of the Commissioner to make himself fa-

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