

DISCUSS SOCIAL DISEASES BILL

Details of Restrictive Law
Being Worked Out in
Legislature

MUNICIPAL ACT READ

Premier Introduces a Bill Giving
Municipal Councils Control Over
Cultivable Lands.

The Government's legislation respecting social diseases took up most of the time of the Legislature in committee yesterday afternoon. The clause providing that a person held in custody should be compelled to undergo examination was the subject of a long discussion. The Opposition Leader contended that this clause should apply only to persons guilty of an indictable offense. The member for West York, Dr. Forbes Godfrey, thought that a medical health officer would have a lot of work to do under this act and should be paid for his services. The inspection of persons under arrest should not be optional but compulsory, and the M. O. H. should be obliged to make the examination, "because this disease is worse than smallpox and the sooner we realize that the better," declared Dr. Godfrey.

Mr. Sam. Clarke (West Northumberland) did not think the question should be left in the hands of local medical men, but the member for Lincoln, Mr. Thomas Marshall, said the legislation was more or less of an experiment, and they should try it out without making too many changes and to see how it worked. Mr. Allan Studholme said that every person under arrest should be examined, and it was finally decided to allow the clause to stand.

Purchase of Drugs.

There was a long discussion over the clause respecting the purchase of drugs approved by the Medical Officer of Health of the Province. Some of the medical members favored changing this clause to provide that no drugs should be sold without a doctor's prescription, the argument being that with venereal diseases one of the chief points was diagnosis. Dr. Godfrey of West York said that young men would go to drug stores without prescriptions and ask for drugs which would be no good to them at all. He was supported by Dr. Nixon of Halton and other members of the House, but the Hon. I. B. Lucas explained that the clause in question had been suggested by men who had studied the question for years, and the House should not take drastic action without carefully considering the matter. Dr. Nixon suggested that medicines needed for the treatment of venereal disease should be manufactured by the Provincial Government in order that they might be secured at one-fifth or one-sixth of the cost now charged. The Prime Minister agreed that the suggestion was a good one and would have the consideration of the authorities.

After passing several clauses the committee reported progress, and the bill will be taken up in committee again next week.

Municipal Act Read.

The second reading of the bill to amend the Municipal Act was moved by Mr. George Henry (East York), who said it provided that municipal auditors prepare their statements by

December 15 each year. The Opposition Leader said he had planned bringing in a similar bill, and he suggested the whole matter might be dealt with at one time. Sir William Hearst regretted that so many amendments to the Municipal Act had been introduced at this session of the Legislature, but he allowed this one to be advanced a stage. Another bill introduced by Mr. Henry will be dealt with by a special Assessment Committee, which will sit after the House prorogues.

A bill providing that a Municipal Commissioner may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Council was allowed to go on to committee by the Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid. This bill is an amendment to the Ontario Highways Act, and will affect Highway Commissioners in the event of its enactment. It was introduced by Mr. C. H. Mills (North Waterloo). The same member had a bill to amend the Public Schools Act, providing for the election of school trustees by general vote of the ratepayers instead of the ward system. Upon the suggestion of Hon. G. H. Ferguson the bill was withdrawn, and in the meantime the educational authorities will have an opportunity of studying the question.

Just before the adjournment of the House Sir William Hearst introduced a bill giving Municipal Councils authority to take over control of vacant land not being cultivated, and have clubs or individuals till it. This is part of the Government's program for increased production.

GETTING A PUNCH INTO PRODUCTION

Problems of Provincial Campaign Discussed Before
Agricultural Committee

Problems of the increased production campaign were discussed by the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature yesterday. Sir William Hearst intimated that a proclamation will be issued in a few days, calling upon all County Councils in the Province to hold special meetings next Saturday to consider their local situation. Members of the Legislature will be expected to attend the meeting, and it is hoped that the Councillors will be emissaries for greater production in their districts. The following Sunday ministers will be requested by the proclamation to make special reference at their services to the needs of the allies for foodstuffs, and the week just prior to Easter will be one of preparation for greater co-operative effort.

Commissioner G. C. Creelman said that the farmers are tired of listening to lectures, and everybody must pull together to help the farmers. The grains most needed are wheat, barley, oats and rye, and the farmers are also being urged to concentrate on the raising of hogs, cattle and sheep. He then related what has been done by the Dominion and Provincial Governments to secure seed and other plans that are being carried out.

Replying to suggestions of members, Sir William Hearst said that the Ontario Government had no power to conscript labor for the farms.

Dr. Creelman advocated the raising of flax on the vacant land around cities. It is about the only seed, he said, that will flourish on ploughed sod, and it is a very important industry, since linen is used in the manufacture of airplanes.