

PUBLIC TRUSTEE BY NEW ACT

Official to be Appointed to Take Care of Escheated Estates

Yesterday afternoon Hon. I. B. Lucas, Attorney-General, introduced a bill in the Legislature to provide for the establishment of a Public Trustee for escheated estates. Hon. Mr. Lucas explained that during the past four or five years the increase in these had been so great as to warrant their being handled by a special official. In this period, he said, the amount of money reverting to the Crown through escheated estates had been as great or greater than during the preceding years since Confederation, and that there was now about \$250,000 to be turned over to the Provincial Treasurer.

In the case of escheated estates, the Attorney-General explained, the estates were held by the Province for ten years, when, after the expiration of that time, if no claimants appeared, they passed into the Provincial Treasury.

By the new bill, he said, a great many small estates, which under present conditions disappeared by reason of maladministration, would be saved for the Crown. By the new bill all the duties under the Charities' Accounting Act, as well as the administration of the estates of persons in asylums, would be transferred to the Public Trustee.

The one point in the bill on which the public might have doubts, said Hon. Mr. Lucas, provided for a trustee who might receive private trusts and act for any person who named him. But as the Crown would be responsible for his actions he could not be compelled to accept any trusts which it might not be suitable for the Government to handle. It was proposed to make the office a self-sustaining one by the payment of certain fees out of the estates to be determined by order in Council.

CRITICISM OF EMPLOYMENT BILL

Ottawa Members Appeal for Consideration of Private Agencies

Some discussion arose as the result of the presentation of the bill in the Legislature yesterday providing for the regulation and licensing of employment agencies. Hon. F. G. Macdiarmid in moving the second reading explained that the Department of Public Works had considered the abolition of private agencies, but had decided not to take such an extreme step. It was the intention of the bill, he said, to regulate existing agencies, and if necessary to abolish, by the refusal of licenses, those that were found to be unreliable. The department had established a number of agencies throughout the Province, which, when they were linked up with the Dominion-wide chain of agencies, would provide better facilities for serving both men and employers than the present system.

Mr. George C. Hurdman of West Ottawa appealed for further consideration for the private agencies. He felt that they might be allowed to continue their operations, even where Government bureaus were established. He was sustained in this contention by Mr. J. A. Pinard of East Ottawa. Mr. Allan Studholm spoke strongly in favor of the bill as being fair to both employer and employee.

POLICE ASK AID FOR THEIR FUND

Chief Grasett Explains the Need to Premier Hearst

Premier Sir William Hearst yesterday received a deputation from the Toronto police force, introduced by Chief Grasett, which asked that the Province lend assistance to the Police Benefit Fund to the extent of \$10,000.

Col. Grasett, in presenting the request, reviewed the history of the benefit fund from its inception in 1882, pointing out the basis on which it was established and maintained by municipal grant and through direct assessment on the gross salaries of the force, but the basis upon which the fund had been established had not taken into account the heavy demands that would be made upon it by the war. The grant made by the city, it was shown, had been \$10,000 in 1910, when the strength of the force was 300, and this had not been increased, although the force now numbered more than 500 men.

Premier Hearst pointed out to the deputation the position of the Government with regard to the maintenance of the Provincial force, but promised that every consideration would be given the request.

LIBERALS HOLD LONG CAUCUS

Liberal members of the Legislature held a long caucus yesterday morning, lasting until after one o'clock. A discussion of the Provincial Trunk Highway occupied most of the time, the details of the scheme being threshed out at considerable length, and a committee appointed to bring in a report. Other issues which occupied the attention of the members were not disclosed. As a result of the prolonged caucus session the House was late in opening and but little business was transacted. A number of private bills were introduced, among which was one respecting the city of Toronto, moved by Hon. Thomas Crawford and seconded by Mr. G. H. Gooderham.

The Government was questioned by Mr. J. F. Lowe, Peel, as to what had been the total cost of the Hamilton Highway to date; is it completed, and if not, what additional cost will complete it?

Mr. Wellington Hay, North Perth, also questioned the Government as to what was the total amount received by the Province during the year 1917-18 in respect to fees for the issuing of letters patent, licenses, etc., from loan and trust companies, and what the total fees received during that year amounted to from these companies for all purposes.

Mr. William McDonald, North Bruce, introduced a bill to amend the Municipal Act, for first reading. This measure provides for the encouraging of the building of workmen's houses within any municipality by the exemption of such houses as the Council shall see fit from municipal taxation in whole or in part; also, that no such law shall be passed without a two-thirds vote of the Council of the municipality, and that no such by-law shall require the assent of the electors.