

lation to obviate that danger. Mr. Mathews said the department had investigated suspicious cases, but, owing to inability to trace unregistered bonds, no action had resulted.

H. H. Dewart, K.C., then took up with A. J. Walker, Auditor of the Workmen's Compensation Board, and Statistician Dean, matters relating to the board's scale of payments. Mr. Walker explained the board's surplus of \$800,000 to be in addition to the pension reserve fund, which grows at the rate of about \$1,500,000 a year. Dealing with rate changes effective since October, Mr. Walker said he was not intimately familiar with them and could not speak concerning them.

From Messrs. Walker and Dean Mr. Dewart secured the information that board rates were not compiled by an actuary as in life insurance concerns.

MEDICAL AMENDMENT GIVEN FIRST READING

First reading was given yesterday to the Government measure to amend the Ontario Medical Act, introduced into the Legislature by Premier Drury. He explained that the bill had been drawn up after consultation, and that it met the approval of osteopaths and chiropractors, though not all of the latter. F. Wellington Hay, Liberal Leader, referred to a letter written to the Press by an osteopath protesting against the proposed act. The Premier said that the writer had not then seen the act; that subsequently he had seen it, and was satisfied.

Hon. George S. Henry (Conservative, East York) said that the bill called for a great deal of consideration by the House in a short time. The bill, he thought, should have been brought in sooner.

The amendment defines anew who shall be deemed qualified to practice, and provides that any osteopath, chiropractor or drugless healer now practicing shall be allowed to continue. The full text of the amendment was published by The Globe several days ago. It is to come into effect on July 1, 1923.

The OBSERVER IN QUEEN'S PARK



It is a poor day which does not add to or subtract from the complexity of the Ontario political situation. Following the reported bridging of the chasm between Premier Drury and J. J. Morrison, or perhaps, more properly speaking, the temporary surrender of the Premier to Mr. Morrison's ideas, came another statement from Mr. Drury to the effect that the U.F.O. Executive's intention to support U.F.O. candidates "is exceedingly gratifying" to him.

Those students of politics who always read between the lines think the coming fight will be entirely managed by the U.F.O. officials on George street, and that Premier Drury will have nothing more to do with it than to busy himself on the platform. Several U.F.O. members, with an experience born of many campaigns, have repeatedly stated that Mr. Drury lacks political sagacity. They give him credit for wonderful administrative and platform oratorical ability, but they claim he does not know how to run elections, nor does he possess an intimate acquaintance with the inner mysteries of obtaining votes. These same men have acknowledged that either Mr. Hay or Mr. Ferguson is far superior to Mr. Drury in this respect, and consequently they rejoice that the campaign direction will be in what they regard as capable hands. It is likely, too, that Mr. Drury himself is glad to get rid of the drudgery and details of campaign management, and in that respect the U.F.O. Executive's resolution was "exceedingly gratifying."

May Be Merely a Truce.

If Messrs. Drury and Morrison are together again, no person seems to regard the reconciliation as anything more than a truce, a patched-up affair, in which the participants consider themselves lucky if it lasts until after the election. In his statement Mr. Drury again points out that there have been differences of opinion. He does not add that such differences have been overcome, and the public will likely conclude the differences still exist, but are temporarily dropped as inconvenient campaign impedimenta.

In the House yesterday the Premier looked as worried as during the redistribution fiasco a week ago. The sole pleasure he seemed to have was when one of the Liberal members, Joseph Henri Marceau, came to the rescue of the Government and had a sharp duel with Col. J. A. Currie. However, for some time many members have been expecting some sort of arrangement between the U.F.O. leaders. "It was just like two men rocking a boat," one of them explained. "Sooner or later they were bound to understand that unless one or both quit the rocking one or two drownings would occur."

The statement of the Premier at Milton two weeks ago today sounds strange in the light of the statement given out Thursday from U.F.O. headquarters. On April 14 Mr. Drury told his Halton constituents that, if he and his followers "should go back as a minority group, and he found men in the House who, not with bribes of position, but from honesty of conviction, be they Liberals or be they Conservatives, would be willing to support him, he would advise his Honor that he could form a Government to carry on, but he

would not sacrifice any of the principles for which they stood."

On April 26, according to the U.F.O. statement, the Premier undertook to accept the wishes of that conference (elected U.F.O. members, defeated U.F.O. candidates, and the U.F.O. executives) "as a guide of his future course."

Call It a Swift Curve.

And the crisp comment generally passed is that Mr. Drury has taken a swift curve.

"The most important phase of the whole thing to me," commented one member, "was that the Premier and his leading political Minister went to Mr. Morrison. The U.F.O. Secretary did not go to the Premier. The humiliation for a Premier in going to Mr. Morrison would be nothing compared with the humiliation of losing office." tions heard, those and many others, often couched in more bitter language, a number of them doubtless utterly unjustified. During the next few weeks, or perhaps days, the Premier is almost sure to make further explanations, which, if they do not add fuel to the flames, in any event will be heard with interest.

The Financial Question.

It is increasingly evident that both the old parties will stress particularly the Government's extravagance during the coming campaign. At the Public Accounts Committee yesterday many facts regarding Hon. Peter Smith's various bond issues were brought out. The Oppositions may not be able to pin the Government down to any scandalous expenditure—using the word scandalous in the ordinary political sense—but they will be able to show how money could have been saved by more prudent and businesslike financing. Government speakers must be prepared to face an avalanche of questions regarding bond issues as soon as the campaign opens, just as the Conservatives may expect bitter attacks on their Leader over his timber administration, and still more pointed inquiries regarding his liquor policy.

Slow Progress Made.

Extraordinarily slow progress was made in the House yesterday with Hon. Beniah Bowman's estimates for the Forests and Lands Department. The Conservative ginger group, led by Col. Currie, swung into action, in the absence of Mr. Ferguson. They had scores of questions with which to worry Hon. Beniah, but the latter received help from an unexpected quarter. J. H. Marceau (Liberal, Nipissing) told Col. Currie that two or three times more work on colonization roads was being done than under the previous Administration. Four years ago, said Mr. Marceau, good Tories got the job, and the colonization road money was squandered. Under this Government they got more and better roads in three years than under the old Administration in fifteen years. Mr. Marceau has a loud voice, and he speaks with such extraordinary rapidity that Col. Currie hardly had a chance. It was highly exciting while it lasted, also a great help to Hon. Beniah, while Hon. George Henry, from the Conservative benches, waved his hands and shouted, "La bonne entente," at the sight of as good a Liberal as Mr. Marceau aiding the Farmers.