

HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN ONTARIO CABINET MOOTED BY PREMIER

Refuses to Dictate to Magistrates—Dental Inspection at Schools

TO CUT DOWN AUTO BILLS

Upon Premier Ferguson's introduction to the Legislature yesterday of his bill to establish a Department of Health, Hon. W. E. Raney asked if it heralded the creation of a new Government department and a new Minister. If so, he asked, what was to become of the Labor Department?

"We are creating a Department of Health," replied Mr. Ferguson. "We already have a Department of Labor and a Minister of Labor, and this new department does not mean an additional Minister necessarily. We do not propose to create a new salary."

The Premier introduced another Government measure—a correlative of the first, he said—respecting medical and dental inspection of pupils in public schools, to provide for the working out of the services now done under the Department of Education by the Department of Health in co-operation with the Department of Labor.

Waiting for Gregory Report.

Mr. Raney inquired if the Gregory report was now in the hands of the Government and when it was proposed to table it. The Premier answered that the full report was not in, and that it would be tabled immediately it was received. Mr. Ferguson expects the report at the end of next week, and there is sure to be lengthy discussion in the House over it.

Before the orders were reached, J. A. McCausland, Conservative member for Southwest Toronto, drew attention to the remark of Judge Denton which Mr. McCausland interpreted as an intimation of impending sentence of lashing against the assailants of Trooper Bowen at the Stanley Barracks.

Mr. McCausland said that lashes were reserved for vicious and indecent offenses, and "it was altogether out of reason for the Police Magistrate to make that remark. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth may be all right in theory, but we are not working very hard at that theory at present."

He thought Attorney-General Nickle's attention ought to be drawn to it.

To Leave Magistrate Alone.

Mr. Ferguson replied that the imposition of military punishment did not release men in the position of the accused from punishment by civil law.

"This Government," he added, "will be very reluctant to dictate to a Magistrate as to how he should construe the law. If a Magistrate is not doing good, then it might be a very good thing to remove him."

Mr. McCausland—That might be a very good thing in this case.

Mr. Raney—I suggest that the honorable member ought not to have brought this matter to the attention of the House without reading the item. My recollection is that his statement was an inquiry as to how these men would like to be treated

in this way. I think it was a very proper remark—how would you like to receive the punishment?

\$40,000,000 Loan.

Answering a question by Harold Fisher (Liberal, West Ottawa) respecting loans floated by this Government, Provincial Treasurer Price replied that only one loan has been issued by the Conservative Government—for \$40,000,000. It was issued on Oct. 6, 1923, the price per hundred realized being 95.8703. The rate of interest was 5 per cent. and the interest cost 5.30 per cent. The loan was sold in Canada.

Hon. W. E. Raney (U.F.O., East Wellington) asked if it was the intention of the Government to advise the Lieutenant-Governor to proclaim the Sale of Securities Act ("blue sky"). The Premier replied that it was improper for any member to ask what advice was going to be tendered to the Lieutenant-Governor. The matter was under consideration whether the Government would introduce a "blue sky" law.

Will Not Divulge Policy.

To Mr. Raney's question whether it was the policy of the Government, in making Civil Service appointments, to consult the sitting members of the ridings, the Premier replied that all appointments were made on the recommendation of Ministers in charge of departments in which the appointment occurred. Mr. Raney challenged the answer, but the Premier claimed the Government was not called upon to give expressions of opinion as to policy. Speaker Thompson held the question had been answered and quoted his authority, which, Mr. Raney said, "did not bear on the point at all."

Speaking to a motion of Hon. David Jamieson (Conservative, South Grey) for a return showing the number of motor cars used by the Government at present and in the past, Hon. F. C. Biggs (U.F.O., North Wentworth) hoped the return would be brought down absolutely full and authentic "from A to Z," and to date.

Cars for Some Officials.

Premier Ferguson said that the Government intended to see that cars were provided for officials who had use for them in public business only. There was no reason in the world why officials in and about the buildings with no duties elsewhere should have cars to go home and back again. A recent survey had been made by the Government on this matter, he added, and light trucks and cars unnecessary in the public service had been found to number about 75, at an annual maintenance cost of about \$50,000. Dr. Jamieson, in speaking to his motion, said that only that morning a Government employee had told him that the placing of his notice of motion on the order paper had cost this employee the use of a car.

Ramsden Correspondence.

The motion calling for a return of all correspondence between the Government and J. G. Ramsden, former Commissioner of the Hydro-Electric Power System, was adopted. Government guarantee of debenture issues of Haileybury, Cochrane and Kapuskasing, respecting building of public services made necessary in most cases by the recent fires in the North, was approved by the House.