

Friday, March 4th

# New Head of Hospitals Announced by Goldie In Legislature Debate

## Dr. Edward Ryan, Superintendent of Provincial Hospital in Kingston, Is to Take Charge of Provincial Institutions—Provincial Secretary Pleads for Building Program

### STATISTICS GIVEN AS TO CONDITIONS

## Minister Says Government Would Be Well Advised to Get Rid of Present Mercer Property and Replace It With Building in County

Announcement that Dr. Edward Ryan, Superintendent of the Provincial Hospital in Kingston, was, as forecast, to take charge of all the Provincial hospitals was made in the Legislature last night by Hon. Lincoln Goldie, Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Goldie, speaking in the Budget debate, confined his remarks to an interesting outline of the administration of the Provincial institutions, described conditions as being "overcrowded," declared there was need of a repair and building program, and culminated with a plea to the members of the House to be generous when handling the estimates for administration of this system.

**Replies to Criticisms.**  
His announcement of Dr. Ryan's appointment followed a reference to recent criticisms of Provincial hospital activities. He had investigated the censure, said he, and thought "there was not much to it." "Now," he went on, "I am happy to say that we have just completed arrangements for a General Superintendent or Director of Hospitals—whatever we decide on—for a man who will devote all his time to the inspection and supervision of institutions. Dr. Ryan of Kingston has consented to take over this work."

"Something will have to be done in the near future," said Mr. Goldie, regarding conditions in the eleven Provincial hospitals. "Some buildings will be required, without doubt. I would be the last to suggest new buildings were it not necessary. But we are so crowded in almost all institutions that we cannot run them to best advantage. In the past we have endeavored to place patients nearest to the section from which they came. I am afraid that we will have to break away from this plan to a certain extent."

#### Nearly 10,000 Patients.

"In the year ending Oct. 31 we had in the eleven hospitals 9,824 patients, an increase of 3.3 per cent. Our expenditures increased 1.9 per cent., and revenue increased 5.7 per cent. In all our institutions we had between 1,100 and 1,200 old and senile who would be safe to let out of the institutions and sent home, but, unfortunately, many of them have no homes, and many of them have no friends. There is nothing I can see but for the Government still to provide for them."

There were, he said, two remedies for the crowded conditions. One

was to build a plain building that would house a thousand patients. This would provide for many years to come. The other was to build at Woodstock an institution to accommodate 500 patients. This would relieve the situation for a few years.

The hospital at Kingston taken over by the Province provided for 200 patients, but this did not do much to change the situation. In addition, present buildings needed repairs and renewals which would necessitate the expenditure of \$900,000.

#### Conditions at Guelph.

The Province at Guelph had care of 126 criminally insane, 20 or 30 of these being Dominion patients, for each of whom the Federal authorities paid \$1.50 a day. There were so many of these criminally insane that their quarters had to be extended in a manner which necessitated a crowding of other inmates.

As for the Mercer, Mr. Goldie declared that the Government would be well advised sooner or later to get rid of this property, and replace it with a more modern place in the country. The property was so valuable that the sale price would go a long way toward the new building.

Mr. Goldie advocated occupational therapy in the institutions. There was a class of twenty-five young ladies taking a two-year course in this at the university. While they would not be graduates for another year yet, the Government intended using their services in the institutions this summer.

Dental work was being done in the hospitals. The Minister of Health was co-operating to give complete equipment in all this work.

#### Wants Larger Grants.

Then Mr. Goldie turned to the Government aid being given public hospitals and other institutions. He would like to recommend that the Government and municipalities give larger grants, but he did not think it would be advisable for this year at least. The Government in 1926 paid to general hospitals \$743,000; to sanatoriums, \$389,000; to refuges, \$115,000; to orphanages, \$46,000; to industrial schools, \$71,000; to Children's Aids, \$68,000; for other child maintenance, \$26,000; to miscellaneous charities, \$85,000. In all, in 1926 the Government paid out for charitable purposes \$1,519,000.

In the eleven Government institutions the expenditures were \$3,115,000; the revenue \$802,000, a net expenditure of \$2,313,000. In the five reformatories there was a net expenditure of \$621,000.

Mr. Goldie went on to tell of the work being done by patients in the institutions. In the Mercer, said he, a variety of things were made. In all, he said, there was a nice tidy business in making things at the Mercer, for there was a turnover of \$115,000.

"Now," he declared in conclusion, "all I want to say before sitting down is for the members to 'come across.'"

The Government places taking moving pictures of activities in the various hospitals in the system. These will be released for public viewing next summer.