

## METHOD OF HANDLING CRIME PROSECUTIONS DEBATED BY LEADERS

Plea Made in Legislature for  
Better Recognition of  
Crown Attorneys

### LEGAL FEES DISCUSSED

A strong plea for recognition of the "worth" and "efficiency" of Crown Attorneys was registered in the Legislature yesterday by Liberal Leader W. E. N. Sinclair and Hon. W. E. Raney, Progressive Leader, in speaking to a \$20,000 vote in the main estimates for purposes of "Crown counsel prosecutions."

#### Should Go Whole Distance.

Mr. Sinclair made it plain that Crown Attorneys should be permitted to carry their prosecutions as far as their spheres of court activity permitted them to do so. If they were incapable of handling them the whole distance, they should be, he said, "no longer Crown Attorneys."

Mr. Raney pointed out that the practice of sending out special Crown prosecutors to conduct criminal cases was one which was "exceedingly irritating to skilful local men," and one which worked "detrimentally to the service." Mr. Raney also deplored the fact that in the past "junior counsel" often had been detailed to replace "experienced men."

#### Savored of Politics.

Mr. Sinclair went so far as to say, additionally, that there was "a suspicion in the minds of many people" that many of these Crown prosecutor appointments smacked of "political jobs."

Neither Leader, in criticizing the practice that has prevailed, and which, judging from the \$20,000 vote—a vote which exceeds last year's vote by \$5,000—may continue on a broader scale in the future, carried his criticism to Attorney-General Price and his department. They realized, they said, that the Attorney-General should have a free hand in deciding whether certain cases required the services of special Crown prosecutors or not, but they contended that unless the cases were of an "extraordinary nature" the local Crown Attorneys should be allowed to handle them.

#### Leaders Differ.

On the question of fees, however, the two Leaders differed. Mr. Raney claimed that the Province had been "running wild" on fees for some time, and he would oppose, he said, any suggestion of an increase of the \$60-per-day remuneration now paid to "special Crown counsel," except under "unusual" circumstances.

Mr. Sinclair argued that cases might arise where the services of a very "eminent" counsel might be required; \$60 a day under such circumstances, he contended, would be too little.

## HYDRO EMPLOYEES MAY BE PROTECTED BY INSURANCE PLAN

Pensions Also Provided For in  
Premier Ferguson's  
Bill

### TO PROTECT HOSPITALS

A bill to provide for pensions and insurance for employees of the Hydro-Electric System was introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Premier Ferguson.

An insurance scheme for Hydro employees had been under discussion for some time, the Premier explained. The bill now brought before the House, he said, was simply a bill to provide for a working out of the plan discussed, and enabling the Hydro Commission, on behalf of its employees, to enter into a contract with insurance companies or corporations. No contribution by the Province was set out in the measure, it being simply "enabling legislation."

Introducing an act respecting hospitals and charitable institutions, Hon. Lincoln Goldie, Provincial Secretary, stating that it involved amendments to the Hospital Act, explained the act in a brief as follows:

"The purpose of the present bill is to consolidate the act, as well as clear up certain matters which have been a cause of dispute.

"We also have in mind, more particularly, to give general hospitals every possible protection in dealing with indigent patients whether residents within or outside the Province.

"The first two sections are given up to defining the amendments of such words as "resident of Ontario," "municipal patient," and other terms where any misunderstanding might occur.

"Certain changes are proposed in the method of payment of grants from municipalities and the Ontario Government—the general effect be-

ing to place more responsibility upon the patient, having regard for his ability to pay.

"Some change has been made as to the responsibility of employers, the general effect of which is to give a measure of relief to the employer where the employee suffers from an illness not more or less traceable to his employment.

"Provision is made for regulations covering such matters as sanitation and many other items."

#### School Board Bill Withdrawn.

Premier Ferguson informed the House yesterday that he would again withdraw his Township School Board Bill. The bill will be amended, he said, and will be up for discussion before the end of the present session, but will not be pressed. This is the procedure the Prime Minister has followed for the past three years, and one which is gradually educating the people, he believes, to the merits of his proposed change of "section" boards to "county" boards.