

Tuesday, March 6th

NEW MCCREA BILL PROTECTS MINERS AGAINST SILICOSIS

Every Underground Worker
Will Be Examined Yearly
for Disease

DREDGING DRY RIVER BEDS

Protection of underground workers in Ontario mines against silicosis, a type of lung disease, is provided in a bill to amend the Mining Act, introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. Charles McCrea. In those mines where conditions are conducive to the disease, medical examination of all underground workers will be conducted yearly. If a man is found to have been affected, his case is brought to the attention of the Workmen's Compensation Board, which looks after the details of arranging for treatment and for the employment of the man in some capacity above ground. If a man is free from the disease he will be issued with a certificate to that effect. Without that certificate, no miner will be permitted to work underground.

First on Continent.

Mr. McCrea told The Globe yesterday that Ontario would be the only Province or State on the continent providing such protection for underground workers.

Mr. McCrea's bill also provides that an Ontario land surveyor will be able to take affidavits as required under the Mining Act, and it will enable the Government to issue a lease for dredging on any old river bed in which there is no water, but in which there might be gold. Under present laws a river-bed must have water flowing in it to be considered as such, and the amendment makes it clear that the Government is entitled to dredge in the case of a river-bed which has entirely dried up.

Superannuation at 55.

Another bill, introduced by Premier Ferguson, is designed to amend the Public Service Act, adding another requirement for the superannuation of Government employees. Under existing laws employees are superannuated when they have served for 25 years, but under the new legislation, they will not, even though they have served 25 years, be superannuated until they are 55 years of age.

The bill also provides that in the case of an employee who has married subsequent to his superannuation, his widow or children will not be entitled to an allowance in the event of his death.

North Bay Police Chief Quoted To Show Increased Drunkenness

Pearson Refers to Annual Report to Back His Last
Week's Statements — Premier Reads Tele-
gram to Refute Argument

What actually is what in North Bay? In substantiation of statements he made in last week's debate, Peter W. Pearson, Liberal member for North York, told the Legislature yesterday that the annual report of Chief Constable William Clarke of North Bay, dated Jan. 5, 1928, showed that there were 131 cases of drunkenness there in the seven months the O.T.A. operated last year, as compared with 251 under the five months' operation of the Liquor Control Act. Mr. Pearson further stated that the Chief's statement disclosed that "an increase of 126 cases of intoxication has been shown over the previous year, chiefly due to the coming into operation of the Liquor Control Act."

Claims of Friends.

Last week Mr. Pearson related to the House the evidence of a travelling man friend who had claimed that in the last three months he had seen more drunkenness and heard more barroom language in the Northern city than in

years under the O.T.A. Yesterday he claimed that the Chief Constable's report justified his friend's claims and integrity.

Premier Ferguson promptly put another complexion on the argument by reading the following telegram, dated North Bay, March 2, and signed "Keeley, News Editor, The Nugget:

"Am in possession of figures which prove that since introduction of Liquor Control Act drunkenness has declined more than 50 per cent. in North Bay in comparison with most favorable figures under the O.T.A. These figures will go on Canadian Press wire this afternoon. Mayor Banner and other prominent citizens are indignant regarding Pearson's charges. He will be asked to retract."

Attitude Unknown.

Just what attitude, if any, the North Bay officials will take now, since Mr. Pearson quoted the Chief Constable's report, could not be ascertained last night. The big question remains, notwithstanding: "What's what in North Bay?"

BUT 30 LEGISLATORS MEET FOR 33 MINUTES

Only 23 Members Present
at Opening of Queen's
Park Session

It took the Ontario Legislature only 33 minutes to "strut its stuff" yesterday afternoon. And never at any time in that brief business period were there any more than 30 members of the House in their seats.

A quorum consists of 20 members. There were only 23 on hand to greet the Speaker at the opening of the sitting. Five of these were Liberals and the remainder Conservatives. Not a Progressive member was present. Even the orders of the day had been called before J. W. Lethbridge, Progressive pilot, sauntered in.

The U.F.O. group of three members was also unrepresented till W. Oke of East Lambton, self-appointed Leader, made his appearance half-way through the sitting.

Accounts Committee Called for Tomorrow

Premier Ferguson announced in the Legislature yesterday that notices had been posted calling the Public Accounts Committee together for organization purposes tomorrow morning.

Liberal Leader Sinclair requested this calling last Friday in the House. It is not definitely known whether he will exercise the privileged granted him last session of inquiring into the accounts for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1926. Unofficial Queen's Park believes that he has some other matter in connection with last year's administration which he will tackle first. When these are cleared up he will then likely divert the spotlight to 1926 business.