

# Eligibility of Blind To Be Wage-Earners Will Affect 1,500

## Hon. W. H. Price Explains That Amendment Which He Sponsors Will Include Blind Under the Terms of Workmen's Compensation Act

### ACCIDENTS RARE, INSTITUTE SAYS

About 150 blind persons at present partly or wholly supported by the public will be made eligible immediately for gainful work by the amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act which received second reading in the Legislature yesterday.

Colonel W. H. Price, Attorney-General, who sponsors the amendments, in an address at the second reading explained that the effect of the bill would be to include blind persons under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and that if an accident occurred to them involving more than \$50 damage it would be paid by the Government.

#### Employers Will Co-operate.

"It is estimated," said Colonel Price, "that there are about 150 blind workmen who can be placed at the present time and who are considered eligible for industrial employment. Some of these are doing work at home at which they can barely earn sufficient for subsistence. One hundred of these require public assistance of some kind to the extent of two-thirds of their living requirements. The remaining one-third are doing nothing and have to be publicly supported. It is most important that those who have a disability of this kind shall be encouraged by their own hands and their own labor to earn sufficient to remove them from a state of public dependence. Employers are prepared to co-operate and help solve this problem, and have indicated their intention to open up suitable jobs. The Institute for the Blind has performed a wonderful work."

#### Tests Are Made.

Colonel Price explained that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind had made a number of tests as to the practicability of including blind workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act. They had employed 92 blind workers in broom, basket and garment factories in Ottawa and Toronto. Over a period of eight years there had been only 11 accidents; only one of the 11 had involved damages in excess of \$50, and that exception had amounted to just \$77.46.

Following the collection of this data by the Institute, Colonel Price continued, conferences were held with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Institute and representatives of the Government with the idea of framing the present bill. Regarding provisions in the amendments that the blind workers shall be placed by officers of the Institute, the Attorney-General remarked that the Institute received a grant of \$50,000 a year from the Government, and that no other organization seemed equipped to demonstrate that the plan

was feasible.

#### Institute Is Eulogized.

He continued: "There is no other institution or organization that covers the same field, or even attempts to cover the same field. It would be unfortunate, therefore, if there was any controversy arousing jealousies or otherwise."

"It has been said that the opportunity given to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, in carrying out this work, reviewing placements and protecting blind workmen, should be thrown open to other organizations. This is the only organization that gets a grant from the Province of Ontario. It is strong throughout the whole Dominion. Is it advisable, therefore, to give grants to other organizations and divide up this work, which is being so well carried on at the present time? Would it not be better to handle it through this channel than to run the risk of failure by the handling of it through weak organizations?"

"When the bill is in committee one may consider whether it is advisable to amend one of the sections of the act so that it will leave it open to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to designate any other organization upon the recommendation of the Workmen's Compensation Board."

## MORE RIGID CONTROL OF SOPORIFIC DRUGS ASKED IN AMENDMENT

### Minister of Health Urges Mark of "Poison" on Receptacles

#### PEST-KILLERS INCLUDED

More rigid control over sleep-producing drugs and certain drugs used in pest extermination is provided for in an amendment to the Ontario Pharmacy Act which Hon. Dr. J. M. Robb, Minister of Health, brought down to the Legislature yesterday.

Di-ethyl, barbituric acid and all derivatives of barbituric acid, whether described as veronal, proponal, medinal or luminal, or by any other trade name, mark or designation, must, once the act is proclaimed, be sold only by a qualified druggist, and the receptacles containing them must be distinctly marked "poison," and where such drugs are sold by retail they must be marked with the name and address of the proprietor of the drug store in which they are sold.

Two pest-killing drugs, calcium cyanide and sodium cyanide, have also been placed in the aforesaid category, and, in addition, they shall not be sold to any person unknown to the seller, unless introduced by some person known to the seller, and on every sale the person actually selling these drugs shall keep an entry in a book, giving the date of sale, the name and address of the purchaser, and the name and quantity of the article sold.

These two drugs have in some instances in the past, it is reported, been sold by grocers.

## PARENTS' NEGLECT OF THEIR CHILDREN BRINGS JAIL TERM

### Attorney-General's Act Supplements Criminal Code

#### QUESTIONS ANSWERED

A penalty of three months in prison for parents failing to provide for their children is included in a bill introduced into the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Hon. W. H. Price, Attorney-General.

It is the first law in the Ontario Statutes providing for the care of children by parents. The Criminal Code's provision for a man looking after his wife and children has hitherto sufficed. The new Ontario law when passed, Colonel Price explained to The Globe, will supplement the Criminal Code and expedite criminal procedure in cases of neglect. The law applies to both mothers and fathers as parents, and children are defined as "under 16 years of age."

An amendment to the Anatomy Act was introduced by Hon. W. G. Martin, Minister of Welfare, which limits the cost to the community for burial of paupers to \$30.

In answer to a question on the order paper Premier Henry stated that for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31 last 1,744 auto licenses had been cancelled for reckless driving and 878 for drunken driving. Answers to other questions elicited the following information: 31,343 gun licenses had been issued; 113 applications had been received to conduct supervised rabbit hunts; 72 seizures and prosecutions had been made for failure to have gun licenses up to the end of the last fiscal year; 65 such seizures had been made in the last four months; there were 89 instances where seizures had been made but no prosecutions followed; it cost \$230,000 for patrolling the King's Highway during the last fiscal year; it cost \$2,240 to date for the Somerset Commission, and \$3,659 remains to be paid.