

COMBINED UNITS OF PUBLIC HEALTH URGED BY DR. ROBB

Part-Time M.O.H.'s Are Deserving of Greater Support

SCHOOL PUPILS ADVISED

Appealing for co-ordination of preventive medical services throughout the Province, Hon. Dr. J. M. Robb, Minister of Health in the Ontario Government, advocates the formation of district or county units through the amalgamation of outlying municipalities over which a full-time medical officer of health would be placed. The Health Minister was addressing the opening session of Health Week at Hygeia House, 40 Elm Street, and had taken for his subject, "Preventive Medicine," when he threw out the suggestion that municipalities combine their resources to this end, when they individually could not afford a full-time officer.

Suggested Solution.

"The part-time medical officer deserves a great deal of credit for the splendid work he is doing, for the amount of money he gets to work with," Dr. Robb declared. "But, let me say, they deserve better encouragement from some municipalities than they are receiving. However, it is only fair to say that many of these centres are not wealthy, and the solution seems to be that they combine and have one Medical Officer for the combined district. I can assure such municipalities that their medical officer will get the fullest co-operation from the medical profession."

Dr. Robb observed that there were only twelve full-time officers throughout the Province, but that 932 gave part-time services. The latter received anywhere from \$5 to \$100 per year for their work, he said.

Mr. Justice Riddell, President of the National Social Hygiene Council, was Chairman of last night's meeting and introduced the Minister of Health. In his opening remarks, his Lordship referred to the necessity for education on preventive matters. He pointed out that "30 per cent. of Canada's fighting force in the Great War, selected from the best of Canadian youth, was destroyed by disease." This fact had led to the organization of an association for combating preventable disease, he said.

Ramsden's Health Hint.

Controller J. G. Ramsden, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Control, formally declared Health Week open on behalf of the City. The Controller himself threw out a health hint to his hearers, when he advised, "Go to bed before midnight until you are thirty years of age; then you will have the energy in later life to carry on the duties which are demanded of you."

Health Week continues every day, concluding on Saturday night. Yesterday over 1,000 public school children were guests at the exposition of health-instructive displays, and each one was given a glass of thoroughly tested pasteurized milk. Today, and each succeeding day, a similar group will attend, and as yesterday be given a glass of milk and hear an address by Dr. A. R. B. Richmond of the Civic Department of Health.

TRAVELLING AUDITOR TO CHECK EXPENSES IN NORTH COUNTRY

Finlayson Admits "Some Irregularities" in Development Work

FIVE MILLIONS VOTED

Sinclair Praises Government for Adopting Liberal Plan

Appointment within the next few days, in connection with the Department of Northern Development, of a travelling auditor, whose duties will be to check up on all contracts, all cash expenditures, actual road projects, and, generally speaking, to work along lines similar to a bank inspector, was announced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, in speaking to his resolution asking a \$5,000,000 vote this session for Northern development work.

Points With Pride.

Mr. Finlayson made no bones about there being some irregularities in connection with development work of the past year, but they were, he held, of a minor type, and it was "with pride" he felt that the Government could point to the fact that in the expenditure of some \$50,000,000 since the Northern Development Act came into operation no serious irregularities had occurred.

In securing the House's endorsement of the \$5,000,000 vote, the Minister of Lands and Forests reviewed development work during the past year, stressing Ferguson Highway construction and work on the proposed link in the eventual trans-Canada highway—the road from Ottawa, along the Ottawa Valley, to Mattawa, and North Bay—as items that had involved the chief departmental cost. He also reviewed the relief work done during the winter months, singling out in particular the District of Kenora (Hon. Peter Heenan's home country), in which he said more relief moneys had been spent than anywhere else, and from which had come the "only abuse and misrepresentation of facts."

Suggestions Welcomed.

Mr. Finlayson warmly defended the departmental policy in the North, but expressed a willingness to accept suggestions from the Opposition as to how conditions could be improved. While reiterating his attitude of the past few years that it was impossible to anticipate costs in the North—to budget for road expenditures as in the southern half of the Province, where the highway work had become standardized—he was prepared, he said, to throw as much light upon and provide as much detail regarding expenditures as it was humanly possible to do so.

When the money bill, supplementing his resolution, comes down to the House later on this week he proposes, he told the House, to furnish as complete a statement as possible not only regarding moneys that have been expended during the past winter, but

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with respect also to the department's program for the future.

Less Politics in North.

Following Mr. Finlayson, William E. N. Sinclair, Liberal House Leader, referred to charges of irregularities at last year's Public Accounts Committee. Following the last session, he said, he made a personal investigation and found there "had been a lot of lying at the Public Accounts Committee last year." The appointment of a travelling auditor was approved by the speaker, who claimed that, together with the improvement in the public accounts, had been urged by the Liberals. In 1930, he went on, of the \$7,000,000 spent in Northern development, \$4,000,000 had been in wages. There was a danger, in re-

spect of the wages, that unscrupulous men might get in and collect for workers not actually doing any work. Northern Ontario, he felt, would get along better if there was less politics and better business methods in its development. The Department of Northern Development should not be a chain of political patronage.

Mr. Finlayson interposed that every disgruntled man discharged for cause would probably make complaint to the Leader of the Opposition, and he denied that money was spent for political purposes. "I shouldn't expect you would agree," said Mr. Sinclair, who stated that complaints did not come from disgruntled former em-

ployees who had been discharged, but from men with sound information on Northern affairs. After a reference to the proposed trans-Canada highway, Mr. Sinclair concluded with a promise to speak in more detail on Northern Ontario in his speech on the Budget today.