

Mar. 16.

REGISTRATION BILL COVERING ENGINEERS DIES IN COMMITTEE

Mining Men Take Strong Stand Against Intended Legislation

IS KILLED IN ENTIRETY

Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday killed, in no uncertain fashion, the professional engineers' bill, sponsored by Charles E. Richardson (Conservative, South Perth), which required the registration of all engineers after examination, on the grounds that it not only jeopardized the future development of the mining industry, but might prove detrimental to the farmer and the small builder.

The measure was turned down in the principal stage, and never reached clause-by-clause consideration. Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, and Fred Kenning, Conservative member for South Cochrane, supported by Jack Hamill, well-known mining promoter; George C. Bateman of the Ontario Mining Association; Arthur Cockeram, representing the great army of prospectors; and Mr. Williams of the Canadian Mining Institute, led the opposition which sounded the death-knell of the bill.

I. F. Hellmuth, K.C., was the only speaker to appear in support of the intended legislation, but in spite of the forceful, comprehensive argument he put up he never at any time got "to first base" with the committee. In spite of his offer to amend the bill as introduced so as to render any one engaged in mining immune from the penalties provided under the measure, the committee—with the exception of seven members—turned thumbs down.

"The entire mining world," said Mr. McCrea, "is up in arms against the bill, and, in my judgment, properly so. If the measure were to go through, men who have been outstanding in mining circles would be held back in their work." The difference between the present bill and the old engineers' legislation of 1922 was, he explained, the difference between a voluntary registration and a compulsory registration as professional engineers. In the new proposed legislation its proponents sought to put teeth that would force people to use engineers qualified under their standards. In other words, no mining man could enlist the services of a practical engineer—one perhaps upon whom he had been depending for years—without having the work overseen or passed by some "professional engineer."

Mr. Kenning spoke at various times on various points of the legislation, called it "terrible," and vigorously upheld the claims of the North that it should never be legislated into operation.

Petitions were produced by Mr. McCrea and Mr. Cockeram. The latter claimed that, had he had more time, he could have increased his 400 prospectors—the men he spoke for, he said, to 9,000.

HENRY NOT DEFINITE ON HOSPITAL CUT

State Not Ready to Assume Entire Cost, Premier Says

Declining to state definitely whether the Government will reduce the per diem allowance to hospitals for indigent patients from 60 to 50 cents, Premier George S. Henry, speaking to 150 representatives of the Ontario Hospital Association yesterday, declared that the State and municipalities were not yet prepared to assume the entire cost of indigent patients.

"It would be bad for society, for we can go too far in the State assuming such responsibility of a social character," said Mr. Henry. He pointed out that there is criticism as to whether the hospitals are practicing all the economies that they might.

"The humanitarian side of activities should have a preferred position and should not be interfered with in the same manner as material things," declared the Premier.

F. R. Reville of Brantford, President of the association, stated that a reduction in the Provincial grant would place too great a burden upon the municipalities and hospitals.

Dr. Fred Routley, Secretary of the association, pointed out that last year over \$1,000,000 had been subscribed in order to carry on hospitals. Excess costs might come from two sources, the private and semi-private patients, and subscription, but he urged the public at large should bear the entire cost of indigent patients. No group of institutions, he said, are in more need of support of the Government, in view of economic distress, than are the hospitals.

LEGISLATURE GETS WILLIAMS'S REPORT

Provincial Police Head Re- views Activities Against Communists

Arrests made in various centres of the Province subsequent to Communist upsets, particularly in the Northern part of the Province, are mentioned in the report of the Provincial Police, made by Major-Gen. Victor Williams and tabled at the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

The report states that the decrease of 1,350 in the total number of cases prosecuted was particularly gratifying in view of unsettled industrial conditions and the abnormally large number of unemployed.

Under the Liquor Control Act there were 5,823 prosecutions, 4,973 convictions, 542 dismissals and 308 withdrawals. There were 224 prosecutions and 145 convictions in charges for offenses against women and girls, 66 being dismissed and 12 withdrawn. In 1930 there were 275 prosecutions for this type of offense.

Seventeen murders occurred during the year, as compared with 20 in 1930; 18 manslaughters, compared with 17; 92 suicides, compared with 83; 210 automobile fatalities, compared with 200; 154 drownings, compared with 166; and other causes 218, compared with 217.