

Per Diem Grants to Hospitals Remain Unchanged, Says Robb

Minister of Health Gives Information to Legislature—Deputation Protests Rumored Cut - Down in Amounts

Definite assurance was had in the Legislature last night from Hon. Dr. John M. Robb, Minister of Health, that there will be no change this year in Provincial per diem grants to hospitals for the care of indigent patients.

Two years ago a strong deputation representative of virtually every hospital in Ontario, waited on the Government protesting rumored alterations in the present scale of contributions.

Dr. Robb's assurance that the Government proposed to "stand pat" came at the tail-end of some House discussion over a clause in the Statute Law Amendment Act providing for a reduction from \$2.25 to \$2.15 per day in the rate of Provincial aid to be granted where the Province assumes the cost of indigents from unorganized territory where patients in a sanatorium.

"Is it the Government's intention," asked Hon. H. C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, "to cut its contributions in connection with other institutions?" "No, it is not," replied Mr. Robb.

YEAR MORATORIUM AT CHORLEY PARK IS VOTED DOWN

Inexpedient in View of Historic Background, Says Premier

NIXON OPPOSES COST

A straight party vote, decisively quashing the resolution, sequelled the refusal yesterday afternoon in the Legislature of Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, to withdraw his resolution petitioning the Federal Government not to fill the office of Lieutenant-Governor for one year.

Asked by Premier Henry to withdraw the resolution, Mr. Nixon declined, stating that though he had not wished for a vote, he would welcome one, however, were it desired by other members. The attitude taken by Premier Henry was that, in view of the historic background attaching to the representatives of his Majesty in Ontario and the other Provinces, it would be in every way inexpedient to support such a suggestion.

Speaking to the resolution, Mr. Nixon stated that he wished to establish definitely that he was making no attempt to break new ground in dealing with the matter in the Legislature. He reminded the House that many resolutions, petitioning the Federal House, on other matters, had been put in the House.

The thought that the Chief Justice of the Province would, by virtue of his necessarily high standard of bril-

liancy and integrity, be fitted to fill the office, was expressed by Mr. Nixon. After lauding the present Administrator, Sir William Mulock, Mr. Nixon said: "The Province would always be amply assured that we would have, in the person of the Chief Justice, no matter who he might be, the outstanding individual of the Province best fitted to dis-

charge these same duties. When a member of the bar is of such reputation in his profession that he is selected for the High Court of Ontario, and in that work makes such a record for himself that he becomes promoted to the Court of Appeal and finally to the very honorable position of Chief Justice of the Province, I repeat we would always be assured of having, in such a man, one who would discharge the duties of Administrator with credit to himself and honor to the Province."

"I do not," the Progressive Leader went on, "propose to say anything which would in any way reflect upon any Lieutenant-Governor this Province has ever had, but I will say that it might be that some appointment of the future would not be as satisfactory as we could wish." Mr. Nixon had, he said, "been informed of instances in the history of the Provinces where a Federal Government sought to impose its will upon the Province through the office of Lieutenant-Governor."

Winter Home for Premier?

The question of the expense to the Province of keeping up Government House was also touched on, and the ironical suggestion made by Mr. Nixon that possibly Mr. Henry, or one of the Cabinet Ministers, might care to purchase the place for a winter home. He recalled that portion of a former Government House was now being utilized as freight sheds for the C.P.R.

Declaring that the social activities at Chorley Park have been, in the minds of "the so-called uppercrust" of Toronto, its most important feature, Mr. Nixon asserted that, in times such as these, "we might well forego these affairs, the cost of any one of which would keep several destitute families for a year. I question very much the good taste or advisability of parading wealth or swank in any governmental affair, when there is so much utter distress and poverty in our Province, and the emotions of the people are almost on trigger edge."

Mr. Nixon's resolution, which was seconded by D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey), was approved by William Newman (Liberal, Victoria South), who felt that the Province had gone too far in the matter of expense where Government House was concerned, and not far enough in the matter of the sons of Empire. Urging the ties of Empire, he declared that the Lieutenant-Governor should be appointed "because he really is a son of Empire, and not just because he is a rich man with some political pull."

Ottawa Perplexed.

That supporting the resolution, the Provincial Government might help Ottawa out of its present difficult situation, was the view of W. E. N. Sinclair, the Liberal Leader. He stated that the Ottawa Government did not dare appoint the one man who was willing to take the position, "for fear of something happening in that riding," and that it was unable to find any other willing occupant of Chorley Park.

"When we come to the discussion of the abandonment of the Lieutenant-Governor," he went on, "I would not feel like going that far. But, of course, the resolution does not call for that, merely for the abatement of the appointment for another year." Mr. Sinclair opined that as events would show, the resolution was not necessary, since no appointment appeared likely.

The Chief Justice, Premier Henry thought, has a man's job on his hands without anything else. His position as Chief Justice, Mr. Henry stressed, takes all his time, and he is entitled to what leisure he can get from his onerous duties. The responsibilities of the Lieutenant-Governor were much more far-reaching than merely opening and proroguing the Legislature, the Premier went on, declaring that the occupant of the office did much to weld Ontario into a composite and successful whole.

Ross Still Governor.

"I think," he continued, "that we sometimes forget that this Legislature is as sovereign as the Imperial House; as far as its responsibilities go, it is just as sovereign as the Imperial House itself." He went on to remind the House that his Honor William D. Ross is still Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and will continue to hold that position until a successor is appointed. He felt, he said, that it was his duty to urge the House to vote down the resolution, if Mr. Nixon refused to withdraw it.

Answering Mr. Henry's observations concerning the need for dignity of administration, Mr. Nixon said: "Surely the position of the Government is not very dignified; we have the Government of Canada peddling this position all around."

"Why doesn't the Prime Minister urge on his friend Mr. Bennett the need for an appointment?" he asked.

Mr. Henry—Did I say I hadn't?
Mr. Nixon—Well, you didn't say you had.

The vote was then taken, and the House registered on the "ayes" and "nays."