

# DOCTORS' STATUS FOR OSTEOPATHS PROVIDED IN BILL

## Measure Is Sent to Legal Committee for Further Consideration

### COULD ENTER HOSPITALS

An amendment to the Medical Act which would give osteopaths the same status as medical practitioners was given second reading in the Legislature, and is to go to the Legal Committee for further consideration. Hon. J. M. Robb, Minister of Health, while stating that there had been great opposition to the bill both inside and outside the medical ranks, consented to this disposition.

Russell Nesbitt (Conservative, Brantford), who introduced the bill, explained its purport. Osteopaths would be recognized as medical practitioners. As there is no college in Ontario from which they could graduate, those graduating from United States colleges would be recognized, the bill provided.

#### Monopoly Before Board.

Osteopaths could not now practice in Ontario hospitals, Mr. Nesbitt pointed out. Neither were they recognized by the Workmen's Compensation Board, with the result that the medical profession had a monopoly before this board, even though there might be cases which osteopaths could handle better than regular medical practitioners, he said. "This bill simply asks that they be given the right to attend patients in hospitals, and that they be placed on a professional basis," said the Toronto member.

Dr. Robb recalled the amendment of 1925, which gave to drugless practitioners a certain status. This was the same for osteopaths, chiropractors, etc.

"The teaching of medicine in this Province has reached a point where it is possibly unsurpassed anywhere. I think I am perfectly within my rights when I say that no schools require greater knowledge of medicine from graduates than do those of our Province," he said.

"This bill would give osteopaths the same status as our medical practitioners. They are graduates from United States schools, and this bill makes no provision as to how they might become registrants in this Province. It says there would be an examination, but does not say who shall hold it."

#### Discrimination Is Seen.

Osteopaths were still presumed to be drugless practitioners, Dr. Robb stated. He had received communications from the Drugless Practitioners' Association, which stated that this would be class legislation in favor of one group of drugless practitioners. The chiropractors had also protested. "And, strange as it may seem, I have a letter here from the Toronto Osteopathic Association which is similar to the others," he said.

"If this bill becomes law we will find ourselves in the position that osteopaths would have the same status as the medical profession. It would enable them to use the prefix 'Dr.' They could issue burial certificates, and they would have the use of hospitals, and could also deal with the Workmen's Compensation Board."

"In so far as the hospitals are concerned, they are a law unto themselves," said the Minister of Health. "In certain of the Provinces where osteopaths are recognized they are allowed in some hospitals and not in others. There is no doubt that the osteopath, due to the fact that the act gives him a certain status, has something to commend him. But after viewing this bill from all angles, and in view of the opposition to it—I have had many telegrams from the medical profession—I suggest that it might go to the committee for further discussion."

#### "Lawyers Will Operate."

W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal House Leader, smilingly remarked on the Legal Committee dealing with the medical matter. "Sending a medical

March 28.

bill to the Legal Committee," smiled Mr. Nesbitt.

"The lawyers will operate on it," rejoined F. G. McBrien (Conservative, Brockton).

The bill amending the Marriage Act was also given second reading, after Attorney-General W. H. Price explained that it was merely clarifying the question of the jurisdiction of the Province as distinct from that of the Dominion. He recalled that the Senate had formerly dealt with divorce questions.

"There are a few matters which have to be brought into line. It has taken a few decisions in the courts, and amendments to our act and adjustments to the Federal act," he stated. "It is solely for the purpose of clarifying the act so that, when a divorce is given here, there should be no doubt as to its validity. It is to make our powers dovetail into those of the Dominion."

#### Nixon Raises Objection.

Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, objected to the fact that the bill as printed did not show distinctly how the act was being fitted in with the Federal act. "Why not set out the clauses here? As it is, many members may not know what they are legislating," he said.

Colonel Price then explained the matter, and Mr. Nixon stated he was satisfied, but merely wished to object to bills coming forward in such a shape that private members could not understand just what was being done.

The House, in Committee of the Whole, approved of the bill to amend the Liquor Control Act. "How did the matter of cancellation of liquor permits stand before?" asked Mr. Nixon.

"There was one clause which stated that the Liquor Control Board could review a case where the permit had been cancelled, and give it back, and there was another clause which stated that it could not be given back until the end of the year. This makes it clear that the board has power to deal with a permit which has been cancelled," explained Colonel Price.

"I suppose that it will help the sales?" suggested Mr. Nixon.

Colonel Price smiled in return.

### Premier Makes Move To Speed Legislation

Provision for speeding up legislation was made in the Legislature, yesterday, when Premier Henry gave notice that on Wednesday next he would move that on subsequent Fridays and Wednesdays Government business could be placed on the order paper. These are the private members' days, and Mr. Henry's move will enable Government business to be taken up as well on those days. At present most of the private bills have either been disposed of or have reached the final stage. There are about a dozen on the order paper waiting to be read for the third and final time. As the date for introduction of private bills has passed, no more legislation of this nature can be put in without the unanimous consent of the House.

# BILL ENFORCES CARE OF WAR MEMORIALS

## Would Compel County Councils to Appoint Committee in Certain Cases

A bill to enforce County Councils to appoint a committee to take care of war memorials which are not looked after by municipalities, churches or other organizations, was introduced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Dr. H. J. Davis (Conservative, Elgin West). The committee would act without pay. A slightly similar bill is already before the House.

Attorney-General Price introduced proposed legislation to amend the Consolidated Sales Act. The bill provides that furniture and fixtures attached to land or property shall be registered against the land in order to constitute a notice to subsequent purchasers and buyers that they are part of the land proper.

An amendment to the Stenographic Reporters Act would change the title of the act to the Chartered Shorthand Reporters Act, and term a stenographer who makes verbatim reports of proceedings a "shorthand reporter." It is explained that a chartered reporter has studied the technical side of shorthand, and, having prepared himself for the work of verbatim reporting, he is taken out of the category of stenographer.

A proposed amendment to the Assessment Act, introduced by A. H. Acres (Conservative, Carleton) would allow townships bordering on cities of 50,000 or more to submit their tax bills without the necessary rates set out in detail, providing a table thereof is attached. Mr. Acres also introduced a bill which would prohibit bailiffs from one municipality operating in another without receiving a license in the former place.