

## REPORTS REQUIRED IN MATERNAL CASES UNDER HEALTH BILL

Department Seeks More  
Statistics in Mortal-  
ity Fight

### TWO MAIN CAUSES SEEN

A renewed effort to reduce Ontario's maternal mortality rate is foreshadowed in a Government measure now before the Legislature, and providing that physicians shall report on the exact cause of death in all cases where a woman's life is lost during child-birth.

At present the Health Department is handicapped by lack of statistical information. Dr. J. T. Phair, Chief of the Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing Branch of the department, stated yesterday. The new legislation will indicate to the department how its efforts can best be directed in the attempt to lower the rate, which is admittedly not so low as in some countries.

The important causes for maternal deaths are believed by Dr. Phair to be late contact with the physician, and palliative treatment demanded by the modern woman during child-birth. To what extent these factors can be held responsible will be determined from the information collected under the legislation.

So far, the department has been carrying on an educational campaign, to induce women to consult their physicians earlier than is the practice at present. All too frequently, said Dr. Phair, the contact between doctor and patient is established so late that the physician is handicapped by ignorance of the particular case he is handling. As for palliative treatment, "women today are unwilling to pay the price of child-birth," said Dr. Phair, and their demands for anesthesia and surgical interference—"largely due to the influence of United States thought—increase the danger to themselves."

As for the doctor's standpoint, full co-operation is counted on by the department in making its fact-finding legislation a success. Dr. Phair pointed out that the average rural physician encounters a case of maternal death only once in five years or more of his regular practice. Under these circumstances, the overworked practitioner has little time or occasion to benefit from departmental educational efforts directed toward his profession.

In his recent review of the Province's health, Hon. Dr. J. M. Robb, the Minister, regretted that no improvement had been noted in the maternal mortality rate. Dr. Phair doubts that Ontario statistics are comparable with those of European countries, in that the latter take no count of women's deaths when they are coincidental with those of their infants. Ontario's rate is about the same as that for Canada as a whole, and considerably lower than that for the United States.

## THIRD READING GIVEN TO THIRTEEN BILLS

Sinclair Measure Regarding  
Tax Sales Referred to  
Committee

### DECLARED WORTH WHILE

The current session of the Ontario Legislature brought forth first fruits yesterday when four public and nine private bills passed third reading in the course of a thirty-five-minute sitting. "Resolved that the bill is now passed and be entitled as on the order paper," Mr. Speaker Kidd repeated as each measure was carried without comment. The legislation, which included the amendments to the Provincial Loans and the Children's Protection Act, and the bills establishing the Battie of Ridgeway Memorial Park and the Radio-Therapy Institute, now await only the Lieutenant-Governor's assent before becoming law.

#### Municipal Measures.

On the motion of the Premier the voluminous measure amending the Succession Duty Act was referred back to committee for several technical changes before receiving third reading. Private bills, which were passed over the final legislative hurdle, included the measures affecting Prescott, Etobicoke, Oshawa, Weston, Welland, and Woodbridge, and the Mount McKay and Kakabeka Falls Railway Company, the Hamilton By-Product Coke Ovens, Limited, the Bankers' Trust Company, the Industrial Mortgage and Trust Company, and the East Lambton Farmers' Loan and Savings Company.

The amendment to the Assessment Act sponsored by W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C. (Ontario South) was brought up for second reading. Mr. Sinclair explained that, at the present time, municipalities are required to put up for sale all land on which certain arrears of taxes have accumulated. The Liberal member, citing the situation in Oshawa, as an instance, argued that an amendment permitting the sale of only a classified list of property would be advisable. Owners should be given all opportunity to redeem improved property, he said, but a sale of vacant lots would clear up municipal assessment rolls. The Premier commented that the suggestion was "worth-while," and the bill was referred to committee.

#### Requests for Assistance.

When the amendment to the Community Halls Act was brought up in committee, Hon. Harry C. Nixon asked Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, if the department was receiving any requests for assistance in that line. Colonel Kennedy answered in the affirmative and replied in answer to a second question that, speaking from memory, about \$18,000 had been paid out last year.

Technical amendments to the Loan & Trust Corporations Act were introduced on behalf of Attorney-General Price. The changes remove existent doubt as to a trust company's right to act as custodian or trustee in bankruptcy. That right is asserted to be granted under the Bankruptcy Act (Canada), which came into force in 1919. Another measure from Colonel Price amends the Conveyancing Act, a minor alteration providing for use of the British system in matters affecting joint tenancy.

W. A. Baird (Toronto-High Park) got first reading for his Municipal Act amendment, providing for greater civic control over establishment of lumberyards.