

System of Coroners Will Undergo Change

A REORGANIZATION of the structure and machinery under which Ontario Coroners carry out their duties is to be undertaken by the Provincial Government.

Each county, provisional county and judicial district will in future have, not only a corps of Coroners on call as at present, but a Chief County Coroner. On this official will fall the final responsibility for the investigation of all deaths from other than natural causes or under abnormal circumstances.

This was announced yesterday by Attorney-General Arthur W. Roebuck after he had introduced into the Legislature for second reading an amendment to the Coroners' Act.

Incidentally, Mr. Roebuck paid a high tribute to Dr. M. M. Crawford, who was appointed under the regime of Hon. W. H. Price as Attorney-General to the office of Supervising Coroner for the Province.

"Dr. Crawford's appointment as Provincial Supervising Coroner has worked out very well indeed," Mr. Roebuck said. "He has proved himself to be a most responsible and efficient official, and the changes now proposed do not in any way affect or alter his status. However, as Supervising Coroner for the Province at large, he cannot exercise any real control of Coroners and their routine cases throughout the Province. The manner in which his services are of great value was recently illustrated when this department set

aside a verdict of a junior Coroner's jury and had Dr. Crawford hold a new inquest. In such cases his superior knowledge and experience are invaluable.

"But," said Mr. Roebuck, "under the old system we frequently had cases where two or three different Coroners investigated the same case, resulting in confusion of duties and districts, with no one person to take responsibility."

"Under the new arrangement, the chief coroner of each county or judicial district will receive reports of all deaths in his district warranting investigation; will himself carry out a preliminary investigation to determine the circumstances, and may assign any one of his subordinate coroners, or himself, to complete the inquiry and conduct the inquest, if one be necessary."

At the same time Mr. Roebuck reaffirmed to The Globe his belief that the Canadian practice of appointing only medical doctors and coroners was the best system. In England, he pointed out, lawyers were frequently given that office, because of the semi-judicial duties involved at inquests. He felt, however, that knowledge of court procedure was more easily acquired than even a slight knowledge of medicine and anatomy, and that, in the preliminary investigation to decide whether an inquest was necessary the medical knowledge was not only valuable, but essential.

SCHOOL PLANNED FOR EMBALMING

A school of embalming and funeral directing will shortly take its place among Toronto's other centres of education, it was announced yesterday in the Legislature during second reading of an amendment to the Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act.

The bill, introduced by Hon. Dr. J. A. Faulkner, Minister of Health, provides, in addition to the establishment of the school, that supervision of funeral directors' professional ethics and standards be vested in a Commission within the profession.

Wilfrid Heighington complained that the bill "once again surrendered rights of citizens from the courts to a forum within their own profession, without right of appeal. Here," he said, "is a body of men chosen from a profession to sit in judgment on their business associates and rivals."

Dr. Faulkner, however, pointed out that the amendment made little substantial change in an act passed in 1928 under a Conservative Administration, and second reading was then given after W. L. Miller (Lib., Algoma-Manitoulin), funeral director, had praised the bill.

"UNFIT" BUILDING BILL IS KILLED

Interpretation Difficult, Says Croll

J. J. Glass's amendment to the Municipal Act, which contained the germ of a slum clearance policy, was withdrawn in the Ontario Legislature yesterday when it was criticized from both sides of the House.

As submitted by the Toronto-St. Andrew Liberal member for second reading, the amendment provided for the notifying of the owner of any building "unfit for human habitation" that it must be either improved or demolished.

William Duckworth (Conservative, Toronto-Dovercourt) wanted the phraseology changed from "building" to "dwelling house," and expressed deep concern for the owner of one-half of a semi-detached building who might awake some morning to find the other half of the place demonished by Government order, to the detriment and damage of his own half.

Hon. David Croll, Minister of Welfare and Municipal Affairs, put the lid on the bill when he said: "This measure goes much too far. The phrase, 'unfit for human habitation' is not capable of easy and definite interpretation; furthermore, the bill makes insufficient provision for vested rights. I find myself totally unable to answer the criticism of the member for Dovercourt, and urge that the bill be not entertained."

Mr. Glass then begged leave to withdraw the bill.

ATTACK ON JEWS DENIED BY PRICE

Roebuck Defends Clavir Incident Inference

Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck was taken to task in yesterday's Legislature by his predecessor, Colonel W. H. Price, for the charge that Colonel Price had magnified the recent Clavir incident because Clavir was a Jew.

The Attorney-General would only give Colonel Price partial satisfaction. He admitted he could not say what Colonel Price's motive was, and must take his statement. But the Attorney-General said the attack had borne all the appearance of being what it was said to be in The Globe report of his original charges.

"The inference which I drew," he said. "I think was justified."

"At no time in the Legislature or anywhere else, have I attacked the Jews," said Colonel Price.

RELIEF POSITION ABUSE CHARGED

The two relief officers whom Hon. Dr. J. M. Robb employed as campaign organizers during the last Provincial election in the Constituency of Algoma-Manitoulin, returned to their relief posts following the election, it was revealed in the Legislature yesterday.

Later in the afternoon, Mr. Croll, at the request of Hon. W. H. Price, former Attorney-General, produced the Welfare Department's record of the two men in question.

"They were granted leave of absence effective May 9, 1934, returned to work on June 19 (election day), and were fired on Oct. 21," the Minister said laconically, amid applause from Government benches.

TOURIST CAMP RECORDS URGED

Register of Guests May Be Required

Legislation requiring records of the guests who stop for the night at tourist camps was set under way at Queen's Park yesterday. A clause in a Government bill sponsored by Minister of Health, Dr. Faulkner, will give the Government the power to require that a register of guests is kept at tourist camps, summer camps and summer resorts.

Provincial officials last night knew of no particular incident behind the move to put "hotel registers" in tourist camps. "It helps to trace people at times and keeps everything regular," they said.

The clause was part of a bill which will give the Government power to license and regulate camps and resorts and prescribe the accommodation and sanitation facilities.