

March 9

AUTHORITY BESTOWED ON INQUIRY

**Stiff Penalties Provided
in Event of Failure to
Give Formula**

BILL BEFORE HOUSE

**Government - Appointed
Body Would Possess
Wide Powers**

Legislative authority for a Government-appointed Commission to investigate secret cancer cures was sought yesterday in the Ontario House by Hon. Harold J. Kirby, Minister of Health.

Revelation of formula and details of treatment are required by the bill, according to the Minister. Sweeping powers to inquire into any type of "so-called cure" are provided and provision is also made for penalties of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500, with a jail sentence of not more than 30 days in default of payment, in event or failure to submit the formula of the nostrum and a description of the treatment.

A major clause provides that "any person who advertises, offers for sale, holds out, distributes, sells or administers either free of charge or for gain, hire or hope of reward, any substance or method of treatment as a remedy for cancer, may be required by the Commission to submit samples of such substance or a description of such treatment."

Penalty Increased.

Indication of the Government's determination to probe to the bottom all phases of the remedies administered in the Province as "cancer cures", is given in a second penalty clause which orders that in event of a subsequent offense, the fine penalty is raised to a \$500 minimum and a \$2,500 maximum and the prison sentence in default of payment is extended to a maximum term of not more than six months.

Mr Kirby has indicated that the members of the Commission have not yet been appointed. Under the legislation, the members are required to make a definite finding as to the value or merit of any remedy that they have investigated.

For the protection of those who submit cancer remedies for investigation, the bill provides that the "Commission shall not divulge any information relating to the composition or formula of any substance received by it."

Two Cases Recalled.

Under the proposed legislation, a Commission, appointed by Order-in-Council, would be vested with full power to investigate such remedies as those sponsored by Dr. J. E. Hett of Kitchener and Miss Rene M. Caisse of Bracebridge.

Dr. Hett, who last April was stricken from the rolls of the College of Physicians and Surgeons by the Discipline Committee of that body, on the grounds that the doctor had been guilty of breaches of professional ethics in relation to his cancer treatments, has a bill before the Legislature seeking reinstatement to full professional standing. Miss Caisse also has a bill before the House asking for authority to conduct her practice with cancer patients.

Dr. Hett, at the April hearing before the Discipline Committee and at a subsequent hearing, refused to reveal his formula and to submit his "cure" to investigation under terms proposed by the examining body.

Distribution Reform For Coal, Milk Urged

Municipalization of the distribution of milk and coal and other necessities of life, in the same manner as the distribution of electricity has been municipalized, was urged upon the Ontario Legislature yesterday by John J. Glass, Liberal, Toronto-St. Andrew.

"I think there is a strong movement in favor of such reform at the present time," said he. "It may be only a mere coincidence, but to me it is very significant that there is much dissatisfaction prevalent in the large urban centres of Ontario, particularly in Toronto, with the present prices of milk and butter, and only a short while ago it was a most fortunate thing that a very serious situation had been averted in this city in connection with the distribution of coal."

Mr. Glass foresaw immense benefit accruing to all parties concerned were municipalities empowered by the Legislature to set up such control.

Organization of old-age pensions on a contributory basis, with the payment age set at 60 instead of 65, was also advocated by the St. Andrew member. "This," he submitted, "would raise the morale of the pensioner, would probably decrease the burden on the State, and, in addition, the amount of the pension could, in all likelihood, be increased from the present maximum of \$20 per month to at least \$1 a day. It certainly is most necessary under existing conditions to reduce the age qualification for this pension."

Taking a fling at the Fascist movement, Mr. Glass declared that it was not entirely confined to the European Continent. "Its germs are infecting the new world, and it is making a determined effort to gain

a foothold in our own country, yes, in our own Province of Ontario. We who have been reared in the cradle of democracy, who accept our form of civilization as a matter of faith, are prone to pooh-pooh even the possibility of extremist elements gaining a permanent place in our midst. But this was precisely the attitude of the progressive and democratic elements in many States which now find themselves under a dictator's heel. I believe, therefore, that it is timely for democratic forces in our own country to take stock of the situation and make democracy more militant, stripping it of all archaic notions, and girding its loins to battle the forces of reaction which, for the present are in the saddle and on the march."