

March 30

Abuse Is Heaped On ex-Governor After Bill Killed

Taunted and Jostled as
He Leaves Committee
Session at Which He
Opposed 'Doctor' Bill

MADE STRONG PLEA

Drugless Healers Asked
Right to Use Prefix —
Episode Is Deplored
but Held Provoked

Former Lieutenant-Governor Dr. Herbert A. Bruce, of Ontario, narrowly escaped mobbing yesterday at the hands of infuriated supporters of the Osteopaths' Bill, which he had helped to defeat before the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature a quarter of an hour earlier.

Leading Toronto osteopaths last night deplored the action of the angry crowd, which took the form of verbal abuse of the slightly built physician and even jostling, as he walked along the corridors. But, while viewing the incident as "unfortunate," the spokesmen for the osteopaths ventured the opinion that the indignation of their supporters was not without provocation.

Rescued by Police.

Had it not been for the timely arrival of three husky Provincial Police officers, Dr. Bruce might have suffered physical injury at the hands of the mob, according to neutral observers. Women joined with men in screaming abuse at the one-time occupant of Chorley Park, as they closed in on him. Dr. Bruce resolutely stood his ground, white-faced and grim.

"They should have hanged you for what you said in there," shouted one man, referring to Dr. Bruce's strongly worded plea to the Private Bills Committee that the osteopaths' bill be defeated. The bill sought to grant osteopaths and chiropractors the right to use the prefix "doctor."

"Throw him in the river," screamed a woman. "A fine Governor-General you must have been," belted another. "How many people have you doctors killed?" demanded a fourth.

Pressed Against Door.

A big, burly individual, wearing glasses, pushed up to the former incumbent of the now lifeless Chorley Park, pressed him back against the jamb of the door, and apparently threatened him in unheard terms and tones. Dr. Bruce remonstrated: "You can't talk to me like that. I'll have you in Police Court if you continue."

"Go ahead," said his accoster, as his target, quite coolly, moved out

into the marbled corridor and started to run the gauntlet of the jeering three score or more. In upon him they closed. What the angry hearts and the heated tongues of the moment might have precipitated is only a matter of conjecture, but the fact remains that the three blue-coated officers of the law who entered upon the hectic scene at this juncture had forcibly to shoulder at least two argumentative individuals out of the path of the distinguished surgeon and public servant.

The testimony given by Dr. Bruce before the committee, to which the bill's supporters so strenuously objected, and which, in their subsequent widely expressed opinion, should have been disallowed by Committee Chairman David A. Croll, concerned several cases in which the surgeon charged that improper diagnoses by osteopaths had indirectly resulted in death. One, he said, was a case of a woman with a cancerous growth on her neck which had been treated by a drugless healer "with manipulation of the spine and rubbing of the lump." Another case — that of a girl who is now married and living happily — was diagnosed by an osteopath as "dementia praecox, epilepsy, and streptococci infection," whereas regular qualified physicians found nothing wrong with her. In addition,

Dr. Bruce scored the use of certain blood-testing machines which, he said, were said to be capable of diagnosing a patient's required diet, condition, disease, sex, age and race — "and if necessary, possibly his or her religion and politics."

All through his brief presentation the former Lieutenant-Governor was subjected to heckling from the spectators, several of whom told him bluntly, despite Chairman Croll's cries for "order," that he was not "speaking to the subject" and should "play fair." Dr. Bruce, however, stuck to his knitting, despite the noticeable discomfiture of the chairman — who only a quarter of an hour earlier had told a proponent of the bill to "stick to the point" — and contended that if the interests of suffering humanity were to be fully considered by the committee the measure should not be reported. The cases he had outlined, he said, were ample indication of the even greater confusion that would obtain if "these healers" were permitted to use the title of "doctor."

Spectators Mutter.

Immediately after the committee voted on whether the bill be reported — a raise of hands in which only those of the sponsor and of H. N. Carr (Lib., Northumberland) indicated support — the committee room was cleared, with several male spectators muttering among themselves, "We'll get the —." Others concerned, aware of what might happen, remained close to Dr. Bruce, one of the last to leave, and a Civil Service employee was despatched hot-foot after the police. Even then, a strapping visitor from Windsor had to intervene, in one