

## APPOINTMENT TO HOSPITAL IS DEFENDED

Naming Dr. Davey Smith  
to St. Thomas Held Only  
Departure From Policy in  
10 Years by Dr. McGhie

### PRECEDENT IS SEEN

Dr. Davey W. Smith's appointment as superintendent of the new St. Thomas mental hospital, following his defeat in Dufferin-Simcoe riding in the 1937 election, yesterday was described before the Legislature Public Accounts Committee by Dr. B. T. McGhie, Deputy Minister of Health, as the only departure in ten years of a policy of appointing superintendents from the trained mental hospital service.

The committee investigation, called on motion of the Conservative Opposition to inquire into the hospital accounts and payments to Dr. Smith, in the first evidence-taking session, was advised that the cost of the \$11,000,000 hospital, on the basis of a \$2,857 per bed patient estimate, was considerably under the cost figures on institutions of a comparative size in the United States. R. A. McAllister, Deputy Minister of Public Works, testified that the bed patient cost was materially lower than that of the Ontario Hospital at Whitby.

#### No Political Dismissals.

Mr. McAllister claimed also that the hospital at London was "obsolete," in that it was not fireproof, and had been described by earlier investigating authorities as "perilous." He said he had advised that it be abandoned, but that action on the recommendation rested with the department.

Dr. McGhie was called by Colonel George Drew, who, in examination preparatory to calling Dr. Smith on Wednesday, traced department policy in relation to appointments and to planning and equipment of new buildings.

It was also emphasized by Dr. McGhie during that period of the inquiry and on examination by Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, that no one had been fired from the service for political reasons since the Deputy Minister joined the department in 1927.

Dr. McGhie said Dr. Smith was appointed as a physician to the Whitby mental hospital on Dec. 8,

1937, three months after the election at a salary of \$3,600 and as superintendent at St. Thomas on March 15, 1939, at a salary of \$5,400.

"It was proposed he might ultimately become superintendent there," said Dr. McGhie in explaining that Dr. Smith received special instructions in hospital administration at Whitby as well as direct training in patient care. He understood, he said, that Dr. Smith, following graduation, had some experience in New York on nervous and mental diseases. In August, 1938, he continued, Dr. Smith was transferred directly into the department under his supervision.

"As a general proposition, appointment to a post of this kind is from the service, of men trained in work," he said later in examination.

Mr. Nixon held there was a precedent in the appointment of Joseph Downey, defeated Conservative candidate in South Wellington, to the superintendency of the Orillia mental hospital.

"Downey was not a doctor?" he asked in cross-examination.

"No," agreed the witness.

"Would it be a fair statement that he was regarded as an able superintendent?"

"That is a matter of opinion," answered Dr. McGhie.

"It was my opinion that he was an able superintendent and he was under my charge for four years," continued Mr. Nixon.

Dr. McGhie agreed that he might be considered an able administrator.

Dr. McGhie revealed there were sixty-four patients at St. Thomas last week and that thirty-two were being admitted every second day, chiefly from the overcrowded London and Hamilton hospitals.

## ONTARIO READY TO IMPLEMENT JOB INSURANCE

Minister of Labor Gives  
Notice of Enabling Bill  
to Take Advantage of  
Any Federal Scheme

### CHALLENGE INDICATED

Legislation which would enable the Province of Ontario to take immediate advantage of any unemployment insurance program that might be adopted by Ottawa this year will be brought down in the Legislature tomorrow by Hon. Norman O. Hipel, Minister of Labor in the Hepburn Cabinet.

The bill, notice of which was given by Mr. Hipel last night, will be brief in text, but so sweeping in scope as to authorize Queen's Park to enter into any agreement initiated by the Federal authority.

The province has no intention of proceeding with a provincial unemployment insurance program this year, regardless of what Ottawa may or may not do. A bill providing for an all-provincial program has been prepared for some time, but it will be held over, Mr. Hipel intimated to The Globe and Mail.

Deputation after deputation which has awaited on him of late, in the interests of labor, have expressed a decided preference for a Federal scheme. The enabling bill which Mr. Hipel is now bringing in is more or less an open challenge to Ottawa to draft such a scheme.

## MINE TAX ACT TO HELP NORTH

Town of Timmins this year should receive \$25,000 to \$30,000 added tax revenues because of a measure to amend the Assessment Act, which was given first reading in the Ontario Legislature Monday, Mines Minister Paul Leduc estimated yesterday.

Mr. Leduc predicted Timmins, Teck Township and Tisdale Township, in which are located most of Ontario's profit-making gold mines, would together receive \$175,000 more this year from the tax on mine profits.

"The bill is an effort to help the municipalities, and it will affect only mines with profits, determined by the mine assessors under the Mining Tax Act, of \$2,333,000 or more," said the Minister.

The Assessment Act as it now stands fixes the municipal tax on mine profits at 1½ per cent until the tax reaches \$35,000. Tax on the excess of profits over \$2,333,000 is 1 per cent.

The amending bill, which received first reading yesterday, fixes the rate after the \$35,000 tax has been paid at 2½ per cent.

With the 1½ mill provincial subsidy added to the higher tax on mine profits, the Northern municipalities should have their financial problems eased considerably, said Mr. Leduc.