

WOULD COMPEL SOCIAL DISEASES TO BE TREATED

**Doctor M.L.A. Favors Jail
if Necessary; Holds Root
of Growing Problem to
Be Found in Alcoholism**

DEFENDS BLOOD TESTS

The imprisonment of social disease cases for compulsory medical treatment if they refused to cooperate voluntarily in taking prescribed clinical treatment was advocated in the Legislature yesterday by Dr. H. E. Welsh (Con., Hastings East) in his address in the Budget debate.

"We should make it the responsibility of every doctor to report every case to the Department of Health," he declared. "The report should be confidential in every respect, but the department should know where that case is, and not only his name and address." If such cases did not co-operate with the department, he added, the government should be empowered to say: "If you break treatment you will go to jail and take treatment."

Dr. Welsh told the House that the problem of social diseases had become an issue of paramount importance, meriting closer attention on the part of elected members. The problem, he declared, was linked at one end with the liquor question and at the other with the constantly growing problem of mental illness.

Says Root in Alcoholism.

"Admissions to our mental hospitals jumped 25 per cent between 1934 and 1936," he said, "but alcoholic admissions in the same period increased 200 per cent. And it is in alcoholism that we find the root of our problem."

The speaker stated that social diseases were largely to blame for the sharp increase in mental cases. "The prevention of mental disease is the prevention of social disease," he said. "And that in turn comes down to the liquor question."

The government, he declared, was satisfied to accept huge profits from the sale of liquor, but he reminded the House that, "while we fill up the treasury with liquor receipts, we are sending people to our mental hospitals."

Continuing his discussion of the alcohol problem, Dr. Welsh defended the reliability of blood tests to determine the condition of drivers involved in automobile accidents.

Holds Claim Ridiculous.

"It is ridiculous to say that sponging a man's arm with alcohol will affect the test," he said. "Alcohol can't get into the blood by using a little on a hypodermic needle. That's just a legal trick. If blood tests were taken and interpreted by proper medical authorities, and then correlated with clinical symptoms, you would have a true picture."

The Conservative member won Premier Hepburn's quick endorsement when he condemned the Federal Government for failing to take sufficient steps to check the spread of tuberculosis among treaty Indians.

"This is a serious condition," he said. "The Indians do not stay on the reservations. They mingle with people as guides, make souvenirs and pick berries. Here is a condi-

tion which the Dominion Government permits to exist in the centre of a province where we are spending two and a half millions of dollars to combat the disease."

Says Control Possible.

Dr. Welsh emphasized that social diseases could be controlled and cured. "Therein lies the special duty of the health department," he added, "and I will do everything possible to help. Treat this problem just as courageously as you are treating the problem of tuberculosis."

"We must break down this hush and make people realize that it is undermining their physical setup, to say nothing of the cost to them in social services and mental hospitalization."

He turned in conclusion to the St. Thomas mental hospital appointment and emphasized that Dr. W. Davey Smith, the new superintendent, was regarded highly.

"The point is this, though," he said. "You are appointing as superintendent of that hospital a political appointee."

WANTS PARLEY TO END EVILS IN GOVERNMENT

**Col. Drew Urges Conference
of All Canada's Premiers
to Meet at Once to Solve
Pressing Major Problems**

ASSAILS STAGNATION

As the first step toward recovery, as a potential cure for Canada's three great problems, national defense, unemployment and wholehearted co-operation of all her governing bodies, Col. George A. Drew, provincial Conservative leader, last night urged the immediate calling of a parley similar to the Australian "Premiers' conference" of 1931.

"I believe the time is long overdue for such a conference," declared Colonel Drew, during the course of his budget debate remarks. "At the moment we are drifting hopelessly to disaster. I am not a pessimist about the future of Canada. I am a confirmed optimist. But no matter what the resources of any country may be, no country can survive the stagnation of government in Canada today."

No matter, said he, what past difficulties there may have been and no matter what personal feeling may have been aroused, the issues before parliaments and the people were too great and the problems to be solved too critical to permit any past consideration to interfere with present needs.

"As the leader of the Opposition in this House," said he, "I urge that something be done to call such a conference so that Canada may face its internal as well as external problems as a united people. If any government of Canada suggests such a conference at the present time, I cannot see how it is possible for any other government to refuse."

Ask Ontario Leadership.

Clearly implying that the Ontario Administration, supported by the House, and before the present ses-

sion ends, should give leadership in this desired direction, the Opposition Leader added: "One government has as much right as any other government to take this step and with all earnestness I urge that something be done to call such a conference immediately."

Everything that was done in the House, said Colonel Drew, was of "little importance" unless the country's major problems were solved. These, he said, could only be solved "by consultation and co-operation."

"If," he added, "such a conference is called, its meetings, except in regard to external national policies, should be held publicly. One of the difficulties in regard to much less important conferences in the past was that the secrecy of their deliberations left the public in doubt as to what had actually happened. In this case publicity is most likely to assure results."

The days through which Canada was now passing, said the Opposition Leader, were the most critical in the history of the country. They were even more critical than those of the Great War, "because even in the darkest days of the war there was no fear that Christian civilization itself might perish."

Today, said he, the issue was no longer the supremacy of one group of nations or another, but the survival of civilization in the face of highly organized barbarism.

"And yet," said he, "in the face of that crisis the ten governments of Canada are paralyzed by their conflicting powers. It is madness to drift on as we are at the present time. There is no one in this country with any knowledge of public affairs who does not realize the necessity of co-operation for the welfare of the whole nation, but all we are getting is excuses for doing nothing."