

Croll Bill Meets Defeat On Expediency Grounds

Attacked on the ground that its proposals were too far in advance of public opinion not yet sufficiently educated on the problem of social diseases, David A. Croll's bill requiring parties to a proposed marriage to produce medical certificates testifying they were free of these diseases, was defeated yesterday in second reading by the legislature.

Only a scattering of verbal votes was made in favor of the proposed amendment to the Marriage Act, after Leopold Macaulay (Con., South York), in giving the only backing offered to the bill, declared the member from Windsor-Sandwich "is on the right road and I am going to support the bill."

"The government preened itself for its courage in enacting the compulsory pasteurization bill, and rightly so. It did take courage. We destroy cattle which are infected with tuberculosis. But we won't give a woman contemplating marriage assurance that her life won't be blighted by insidious disease," he said.

Croll Stresses Necessity.

Mr. Croll, who last year introduced a similar measure and withdrew it under pressure, made a

vigorous plea on behalf of his new bill, warning that "the social welfare of the people makes imperative a measure which will ensure that social diseases and other hereditary ills in the bodies of men and women shall not be passed on to a future generation."

On the House, he said, was an onus which could not be ignored of providing for the protection of innocent persons who were about to contemplate marriage.

Dr. Harold Welch (Con., Hastings East), who in his budget speech repeatedly urged the department to launch an educational campaign in conjunction with its treatment work, charged that medical men had not co-operated with the department as they should have done in reporting cases.

"I say if you pass this bill, you are not only throwing it upon an uneducated public, but also on a profession which is not as yet co-operating as it should," he warned.

He declared a doctor was guilty of "professional malpractice," if he did not stake steps at a child birth to protect the infant from the disease. There was, he said, no excuse for a child being infected if the doctor was notified of the mother's condition.

Plan Redraping Of Legislature

In preparation for the impending visit of their Majesties, the King and Queen, the Ontario Legislature will be completely redraped at a cost of \$4,872.64, it was revealed yesterday in replies to questions by Thomas Murphy (Cons., Toronto Beaches).

The answers, tabled by Premier Hepburn, stated the lowest tenders on each item had been accepted and had been awarded to the Robert Simpson Company, Limited, and the T. Eaton Company, Limited, for \$2,295 and \$2,577.64 respectively.

Ontario Won't Borrow For Highways Building

Premier Hepburn yesterday warned the province that the government would not embark upon highway expenditures and other projects on borrowed money during the current fiscal year.

The Premier made his statement in the Legislature after introducing the customary bill authorizing the government to borrow money, in this case up to \$30,000,000 on the credit of the consolidated revenue fund.

"I may say for the benefit of delegations who will be besieging us in a few weeks for highways and other projects that we do not propose to do it on borrowed money," he said.

Mr. Hepburn, at the same time, pointed out there were certain highway developments which would have to be completed but the government did not propose to borrow up to the full limit of the amount named in the bill.

"Certainly," he added, "that is not my intention."

He charged that the "indifference and callousness of the Ottawa Government in reducing grants for relief," had made it necessary for the province to assume nearly fifty per cent of the Ontario relief burden. This, he added, had had the effect of increasing the capital debt last year by several millions of dollars.