

APRIL 27

Eviction of Single Men Blamed on City by Cross

Eviction yesterday morning of the 279 single transient unemployed from the Coliseum produced a storm in the Legislature early this (Thursday) morning as Hon. Eric Cross, Minister of Welfare, charged the city administration with the responsibility for their plight.

The men and youths, after seeking all day long for food and lodging, said last night they would wander through the streets all night in groups of five, pausing only to rest on the City Hall steps.

After the men were ordered to clear out of the coliseum, a delegation approached the city Board of Control, but was told the board had not given the order to close the coliseum. The transients made representations to the department of welfare at Queen's Park and to the federal government by telegraph. The transients reported that Ottawa authorities said they did not know why they had been evicted.

"Surprise to Me."

Questioned in debate, launched by the Opposition on the problem of unemployment in which the eviction was branded as a "stupid blunder," Mr. Cross said "it came as a surprise to me that the city had abruptly terminated the agreement which we had with it."

Earlier, he revealed, under the agreement for the care of the transients, the city assumed administrative responsibility and the agreement had been extended until May 1.

The eviction order was made after the city authorities had learned that the transients, on the eve of the closing of the coliseum hostel on May 1, planned to demonstrate and "to wreck the building," Mr. Cross said he had been told.

The minister's explanation threw the House into confusion when he charged that "a great deal of the agitation on the part of members opposite is due in the main part to political motives."

W. J. Stewart (Cons., Parkdale) was on his feet immediately, demanding a withdrawal, and he was supported in his demand by Colonel Drew.

"I demand a withdrawal," the member from Parkdale shouted angrily. "If you don't withdraw I'll shove it down your throat."

"This discussion was conducted on a very high plane," the Conservative Leader said, "until the statement was made by the Minister of Public Welfare, attributing

political motives to this side of the House. I don't think I need to point out that a withdrawal is in order."

"I used the term 'political' not in the sense that there was anything malicious in their motives," the Minister explained. "After all, any speech made in this House is a political speech to some degree."

"If the Minister does not intend to withdraw his remark," observed Colonel Drew, "we can do nothing about it. The chairman has ruled that discussion on this matter terminate. If he will not withdraw, we can only draw our own conclusions."

"I think it is in the best interests of the House that we should terminate the discussion," agreed Chairman Roland Patterson.

"I move we adjourn," interjected Leopold Macaulay.

"That's nothing but a want of confidence motion," said Hon. H. C. Nixon, Acting House Leader, "If the honorable member wants to press it, let him go ahead."

"It's not a question of want of confidence," Mr. Macaulay replied. "It's lack of sleep."

Attorney-General Conant said the Provincial Police had informed him that a group planned to invade the buildings, enter the galleries of the Chamber and create a disturbance. On the basis of that report, he said, police were ordered to bar them from the House.

Still Probing Cancer 'Cures'

The Cancer Commission, appointed last year to investigate so-called "cures," is not yet in a position to make a definite report, Hon. Harold J. Kirby, Minister of Health, yesterday informed the Legislature during discussion of his department's estimates.