

MENTAL CASES JAM HOSPITALS

**Overcrowding Admitted
by Minister of Health**

While admittedly there is overcrowding in Ontario mental hospitals, the Government has not at present, a building program in mind, Health Minister H. J. Kirby advised Conservative Leader Drew last night in the Legislature.

It was, said the Minister, a matter for the Government to decide. Lieutenant-Colonel Drew said he had been advised there was a waiting list of 1,500 at the Orillia Hospital, and that overcrowding at the Fort William Hospital was "terrible." He suggested that, if present hospital buildings were of a nature that permanent additions could not be made, that temporary buildings should be erected.

Mr. Kirby said it was necessary to bring Northern patients to South Ontario, because the Fort William Hospital was too small. He said there were 1,900 patients in the Orillia Hospital, but claimed the waiting list was not as large as Colonel Drew indicated.

"It is true there have been many requests for admissions there, and we have adopted the policy of taking in only those of soldiers' families and those who are charges on the Children's Aid branches.

"There have been a greater number of applications of late. I hesitate to say that parents seek to relieve themselves of caring for their children."

DREW DEMANDS FARM PROGRAM

**Charges Ottawa Shows
'Utter Incompetence'**

Conservative Leader Drew, for the second successive day in the Legislature, lashed out at the Dominion Department of Agriculture yesterday and charged it with "utter incompetence" in its failure to draft a co-ordinated farm production program.

"The time is long overdue for the Provincial Minister of Agriculture to say in the most vigorous terms to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa that this Province and this Government can no longer tolerate the utter incompetence of the Dominion Department of Agriculture and will be forced to set up a completely separate program of its own."

Lieutenant-Colonel Drew, on Tuesday charged in the House that Wartime Prices Administrator Gordon was "talking through his hat," when in a speech at Winnipeg Monday he said wheat was not necessary to help win the war. The Conservative Leader declared then that the administrator's declaration of policy—a declaration that should have been left with the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. James G. Gardiner—showed a breakdown in responsible government.

BEEF EMBARGO HELD 'MISTAKE'

**Small Retail Ceiling Rise
Would Provide Relief**

Delegates to Tuesday's beef conference at Ottawa agreed that an embargo upon the export of Canadian cattle to the United States "would be a mistake," Ross McEwing, (Lib., Wellington North), and representative of the Legislative agriculture committee to the conference, reported to the House yesterday.

"As the conference saw it, the only immediate relief that could be brought in would be by raising the retail ceiling at this time. We were able to sell that idea up to a point. Donald Gordon, head of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, was not in Ottawa, but officials are meeting Mr. Gordon today," he said.

"The committee felt," said Mr. McEwing, "that a small raise in the ceiling would not be objectionable to the consumers, as their buying power has been increased to a point that it would not disturb the cost-of-living index greatly."