

Dr. Thorburn moved, seconded by Dr. Harris, that the Council go into Committee of the Whole on the report of the Finance Committee.

Council in Committee of the Whole. Dr. Logan in the Chair.

Dr. Thorburn reads: "In view of the very heavy expense attending the Discipline Committee, we would recommend that when medical legislation is next sought for, amendment be secured to the Act by which the Council may appoint a commissioner to take evidence in all cases of discipline, and he shall report the same to the Council." We find the present way of dealing with these cases is very tedious and very expensive, and we thought it would facilitate the matter very much in many respects, to conduct the enquiries just in the same way as the County Judge takes evidence.

Dr. BERGIN—I do not much like making objections so often to motions brought before this Council, but I must say that I am not at all in accord with the proposition given in the report of the Finance Committee. We require, I think, first some well-founded assurance that the investigation of these cases by a commissioner will be more conducive to the success of our prosecutions: and we would require also a very well-grounded assurance that it will be cheaper. I know something about commissions, and I know that they are very expensive matters; that when a commission of this kind goes to a County Court Judge—

Dr. THORBURN—We do not propose giving it to the County Judge. We will take it into our own hands.

Dr. BERGIN—Under the statute you will be obliged to pay \$20 a day to the Commissioner; and when he has to adjourn he gets \$8 for each adjournment; and I do not think we should jump into the thing merely because one gentleman or two happen to think they can improve matters. There are reformers and reformers; those who are very expensive, and reformers who are very reckless sometimes; and before we jump into this thing we ought to count the cost. We ought to be perfectly sure that we are going to establish that which will commend itself to the Council, not to-day, but for all time. So far we have been, I think, very successful under the action of the Discipline Committee; everything has been conducted very well; it has been conducted in open day; there has been no hole-in-the-corner work, and there have been no adjournments to put \$8 into the pocket of the presiding officer every time an adjournment is made. There has been nothing of that kind; and although it has been very expensive, we are on the high road towards driving offenders out of the country altogether. And I think, possibly, if the Council is given time to consider before the next meeting, some plan may be devised by which we can lessen the cost; some plan that will commend itself to the Attorney-General, so that he will give us legislation that will enable us to make these people pay the costs or give security for them. The great difficulty with us is that there has been so much money expended in costs, and that men like Dr. Washington, who were convicted, were not obliged to pay the costs incurred by the Discipline Committee. I am satisfied that the Attorney-General is at one with us in the desire to give us the power to collect the costs, to tax the costs

against these men that we discipline; and in this way, except in the case of some very impecunious wretch, we will escape the loss we have been put to in the past.

Dr. THORBURN—I am not particular about the word "commissioner." And I am quite glad to hear Dr. Bergin express himself that the Attorney-General will suggest some method. This suggestion was made more to provoke some discussion than anything else.

Dr. MILLER—I think it would be well to strike out the clause. We probably will not be here very long, and if any change is about to be made, I think that probably our successors would be the proper people to do it. This, however, is a change which perhaps may involve greater expense, as already has been pointed out, than the system which we have adopted and which, though somewhat expensive, has been very effective. I would be very sorry now, in the short time before us, to see any radical change attempted.

Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Dr. Philip, that the clause just read, of the Finance Committee's report, be struck out. Carried.

The reading of the report was then continued clause by clause, and the report was adopted as amended.

On motion the Committee rose. The President in the chair.

On motion the report of the Committee of the Whole, *re* the report of the Finance Committee, was adopted.

ENQUIRIES.

Dr. MILLER—There were some questions asked yesterday with reference to some payments set out in the Treasurer's report, and it was understood that the vouchers for those payments should be produced, in order that the members of this Council might have information as to the nature of the items.

Dr. THORBURN—One of those questions alluded to the interest paid to the Canada Life. It was stated here that we paid \$3,000 annually; last year it was \$3,100 odd dollars, and on a former occasion a still greater sum. The reason that this year it is only \$3,000 and last year only some \$3,000 odd, was because there were notes discounted for the College due, and the difference is made up of interest on those notes.

Dr. Ruttan asks whether the bank gets a premium for insuring the building.

Dr. Pyne states that the bank does not.

Dr. THORBURN—The question of supplies was also referred to yesterday. Those supplies were largely made up of plumbers' work, and work fixing the elevators and boilers.

Dr. LUTON—I would like to ask what all this water that is charged here was used for? Do we supply our tenants, or is it the water that is used by us as a Medical Council?

Dr. PYNE—The water charged for there is used for running the elevator. There is a metre on the building, and the water is paid for after running through that metre.

Dr. LUTON—Is the gas charged for used exclusively by the Medical Council, or is it used also in the library room?

Dr. PYNE—It is used by the Council, and used for lighting the corridors in the building. We have to keep the corridors lighted.