

public sentiment in favor of raising the standard of medical education. Hence we find that that agitation was so vigorous that those colleges that had the right to prepare candidates for license all combined for the purpose of forming this central board. With reference to this bill I may say that, so far as the bill in its entirety is concerned, there is no agitation at all. All the petitions sent to this House, so far as I can make out, and I have read them all pretty carefully, were on this line. They asked for the repeal of the penal clause that was introduced last session; and there is not one single petition signed by any member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the Province of Ontario in favor of the bill now presented by the honorable member for Lennox. They ask simply that the penal clause introduced last session be abolished. That being the case, I think this House should consider well before they undertake to interfere with the legislation of last session, more especially as this legislation was not initiated by a few members here and there scattered throughout the province. We know that a representative committee from the College of Physicians and Surgeons came to this House; they met the medical men in the House and consulted with them, as well as the other members of this Assembly, and I may say that no medical man in this House was more enthusiastic in favor of the legislation for last session than the honorable member for Lennox. I do feel somewhat surprised at the position he is taking to-day, for we know that the only clause that he objected to in the bill I had the honor to take charge of last session was the last clause in his present bill; I refer to the one in reference to keeping the register in a proper condition, a clause taken from the British Medical Act.

No one will deny that the College of Physicians and Surgeons have done good work in the province, and if there is one thing more than another that the public like to be protected from it is from the ignorant and uneducated physician who is in charge of the lives of his friends and his family.

If you look at some of the neighboring states where they have very lax laws in the medical education, you will find that they have not the same confidence in their physicians that the

public have in the Province of Ontario. I believe there is no state in the Union, there is no province in the Dominion, and I may say there is no civilized country to-day, that has a better examining board than we have in the Province of Ontario. Our Medical Act is considered to be one of the model enactments of the present day. Of course there may be some matters that will bear a little harshly, or appear to bear somewhat harshly, on some of the members, but, for all that, I do not think it is right to destroy the influence of an institution simply because a few members of the profession in the province are opposed to some of the clauses it contains.

In looking at the bill of the honorable member, we find that the first section asks for the repeal of section 27 of the Ontario Medical Act. Now, what does that mean? This was not a portion of the legislation passed during last session; clause 27 was added to the Ontario Medical Act in 1874. It was the clause imposing a fee upon the profession in the province who were members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Why did they ask that? The Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons found they were not possessed of sufficient funds to properly carry out the affairs of the Council without receiving financial aid from the profession at large. They also thought it was unfair while they were affording a certain amount of protection to the profession to say that all the fees coming into their treasury should be exacted from the students that came up for examination. Consequently they came to this House and asked for legislation to impose a certain small fee of one dollar upon the members of the profession in the province. Now, as a result of that, we find that they have gone into certain undertakings; they have, in the interests of all concerned and according to judgment, gone into buildings and equipments that would of necessity absorb considerable of the funds of the College.

Now, if it is found that the fee imposed in 1874 could not be collected—and I think I will show you before I get through that such was the case—if this House allowed the Council to believe that they were to receive a certain revenue from the profession by way of an annual fee, I claim it would not be keeping faith with