

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY NOW DOWN TO BUSINESS MATTERS

Attorney-General Presents Outline of the Proposed Jury System—Bills and Petitions Presented Yesterday—Notices of Enquiry Filed—Jordan Sanatorium Discussed.

Fredericton, March 18.—Assembly Chamber.—The House met at 3 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Speaker said he wished to bring to the notice of the members a matter to which he had been giving some attention. He felt that every honorable member was anxious to assist him in preserving order, and in having the rules of the House observed. He had been annoyed a good deal by people moving in and out of the House. Those who were entitled to seats on the floor were judges, senators, members of parliament and ex-members of the House. He had often been asked by honorable members to permit their friends to occupy seats on the floor, and while he hated to refuse them, he was also anxious that the rules should be observed. He wished to point out that the room to the right of the entrance was for the accommodation of honorable members, and others should not be allowed to congregate there. He also noticed that honorable members were in the habit of reading newspapers from their seats, a practice which was rather annoying. He did not wish to be arbitrary but he felt it was his duty to preserve order and dignity in the House.

Notices of enquiry were given for Friday next as follows:

By Mr. Smith (Carleton), as to expenditure made on the Charlo River Bridge, County of Restigouche.

By Mr. Smith (Albert), as to road expenditures in the parish of Coverdale, Albert County.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to amend the act relating to best general and public hospital. He explained that the object of the bill was to permit women to sit on the board of commissioners, the number being limited to two.

Hon. Mr. Dorel presented a petition from the town council of Edmundston for the passage of an act to amend an act relating to the assessment of Frasers, Ltd.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill entitled an act relating to juries and jurors. He explained that the bill would change the method of selecting jurors, which had been in vogue a number of years. Under the present law the ages of jurymen ranged from 25 to 60 years, and while the bill proposed to change in that respect the House would be asked to consider the advisability of increasing the age limit to 65, as it was felt that man of that age, if competent, should not be debarred. It was proposed by the act to constitute a jury board for each county to be composed of the assessors, and the sheriff by the duty of that board to prepare the jury lists. They were to meet at a specified time and determine the number of jurors that would be required during the year. Having organized, the board would proceed to select those who were to be qualified to serve. From that list both grand and petit jurors would be drawn. The jury list would be kept in the sheriff's office and copies forwarded to the clerks of the county and the sheriff. The sheriff was to prepare a jury box from which the names of jurors would be selected by means of cards on which the names would first be written. The grand jury will be first selected and then the petit jury, the list constituting the panel. The grand jury shall consist of 12 names and the petit jury 21. The sheriff shall make up the jury panel and forward copies to the clerks of the court. Jurors shall not be called upon to serve more than once in two years. Remuneration of the members of the jury board shall be determined by the municipal council. Petit jurors were now paid \$1.00 per day for actual attendance, and ten cents per mile for travelling expenses. It was proposed to vest in municipal councils authority to add to the pay of jurors a sum not exceeding \$2.00 per day. Grand jurors had not hitherto been paid for their services, but the act would empower municipal councils to provide for their remuneration.

Hon. Mr. Robinson presented the petition of the City of Moncton for the passage of an act relating to that city.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to amend the Jiffitact, 1909.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale presented the petition of the municipality of Victoria for the passage of an act relating to temporary loans for board of health purposes.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to amend the act to provide for a almshouse in the County of Kings. He explained that the object of the bill was to remunerate the board of commissioners for their services, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the municipal council.

Mr. Potts presented the petition of the City of St. John for an amendment to the act relating to side and top wharfage.

Mr. McGraith presented the petition of the Town of Newcastle for the passage of a bill relating to the town.

Hon. Mr. Murray laid on the table of the House a statement of revenue and expenditure from October 1st, 1918, to March 1st, 1919.

Mr. Tilley presented the petition of the City of St. John for the passage of a bill relating to the St. John election act.

Hon. Mr. Murray presented a statement of the property valuation of the County of Albert.

Mr. Grimmer presented the petition of the City of St. John for the passage of a bill to amend the act relating to the property valuation of the County of Albert.

Mr. LeBlanc presented the petition of the City of St. John for the passage of a bill to amend the act relating to the property valuation of the County of Albert.

Mr. A. Andrew, M. A. Kelly, and others for the passage of an act relating to the Restigouche and Bay Chaleur Soldiers Memorial Hospital; also a petition for the incorporation of Sisters' Hotel Dieu, St. Joseph, of Campbellton, and also, the petition of the Campbellton town council for the passage of a bill relating to said town.

The address was then adopted without division.

Mr. Robichaud moved that it be engrossed, signed by the Speaker and presented to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. Mr. Speaker named as the committee to present the address, the mover and seconder, and Hon. Mr. Robinson.

The House went into committee with Mr. Leger (Wentworth) in the chair, and took up the consideration of a bill to confirm an agreement between the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium and the department of soldiers' civil re-establishment of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Byrne explained that the agreement covered a period of five years, from October 1st, 1918, and could be extended for a further period if desired. The department could make any changes or alterations in the buildings, but at its own expense. Upon the expiration of the term of the agreement the buildings and the improvements would revert to the province. Provision had been made for the treatment of thirty civilian patients at the institution for which the province was to pay a sum not greater than \$15 per week for each. If need be, the government could provide, at its own expense, accommodation for additional patients. The department would pay for the food, fuel and coal on hand at the institution. The Jordan Memorial Sanatorium would remain as the corporate name.

Mr. Tilley asked if the thirty patients were to be maintained at the expense of the province, or if there would be some free patients.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that pay-

ment would be made by the government to the department. Patients who were able to pay would pay \$125 per day, which would go into the provincial treasury. The government through the Jordan committee, had power to make arrangements for free beds. The bill would not affect that in any way. The present net cost of the institution to the province was \$300 a month. The honorable Premier had conducted the negotiations for the transfer of the property, and the commission had acted with him. A good arrangement had been made, and he believed would work out satisfactorily. The department had taken some improvements.

Mr. Tilley said that the committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the sanatorium had recommended that it either be abandoned altogether or some plan adopted such as was outlined in the bill. The committee had also recommended free beds, and he wanted to know if they were to be provided and what the arrangement would cost the province.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said the sanatorium was now costing \$300 a month. Mr. Tilley said that he understood that it was going to cost \$22,000 a year under the present arrangement.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that the figures he had given represented the actual cost. What it would cost in the future would depend on the policy adopted with reference to free beds.

Mr. Murray (Kings) said that under the agreement the matter of free beds had not been affected one way or the other. The government had simply agreed to pay \$15 per week per patient, and the cost of transport, like \$22,000.

Mr. Mesereau said he believed that patients able and willing to pay should pay. For those unable to pay the full fee, there should be a nominal fee and, in certain cases, as Mr. Tilley had suggested, free beds.

Mr. Magee said that he could speak as a member of the committee to investigate the sanatorium. He was not a member of the committee, but he was in connection with this institution. He was not favorably impressed by the site, for it was too far from railways and the cost of transportation of fuel was remarkably heavy. While at the sanatorium the investigating committee saw no team, and no even a person passing through the settlement. He believed it was too lonely a place for tubercular patients. The committee had found that the sanatorium had not been on business principles.

He was pleased when informed by the premier that an agreement had been entered into between the province and province whereby the province would be relieved of a heavy burden for a period of five years. As far as free patients were considered, it did not appear to be generally known that municipalities had power to send to the institution patients that were not able to pay.

Mr. Murray (Kings)—They were all notified.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that the sanatorium had a nominal surplus of eighteen hundred dollars on March 1st, which could be accounted for by the fact that supplies had been taken over by the new federal government. The number of civilian patients had decreased to a marked extent, there being about fifteen under treatment. The question of free beds was a large one. The cost of the institution had been excessive, and he, as a member of the commission in charge, had frequently been dissatisfied, and had expressed objection to some of the bills. In the matter of the location of the sanatorium he was not qualified to judge but physicians had stated that the site was ideal.

Mr. Magee—"It is an ideal spot to die in."

Hon. Mr. Robinson—"People try to find beautiful spots in which to die."

Continuing the speaker said the cost of maintenance was now light, but with free beds it would increase, although not to the point formerly reached. He believed that the investigating committee might have brought in a different report from which it had. It was true that the sanatorium had been found in bad condition, but the institution had not. The present expenses of the institution were heavy, and the future was in doubt, and all would like to be enlightened as to what should be done at the end of five years when the agreement with the Dominion would expire.

Mr. Burchill asked if the federal authorities had made any changes and improvements. Personally he believed the honorable member for St. John (Tilley) was quite justified in his criticism.

Mr. Murray (Kings) said the committee, which conducted the investigation, had based its opinion upon what it had seen. Mr. Tilley had criticized because he wished to benefit the poorer classes. The commission had come in for most severe criticism, and as far as the investigation was concerned he would say that it was only have been a matter of common courtesy to have notified the commissioners when the investigation was to have been held. It was only on the day of the visit that he was advised concerning the matter. The investigating committee arrived there with no superintendent in charge, Dr. Townsend having left, and no person in authority to give information. The committee had gone to the sanatorium and he presumed interviewed the hostess, to the kitchen and interviewed the cook, and so on. Had the commissioners been present they could have pointed out the difficulties under which they had worked. In spite of what was said not one dollar had been wrongly spent, and many persons have been benefited by the operations of the sanatorium. The members of the commission had given their services and their time without price, and deserved credit for what they had done. There were such men as the late A. R. McClellan, ex-lieutenant governor, F. W. Sumner and Hon. Mr. Robinson of Moncton, Dr. McAvaney of St. John, C. J. Osman, Hillsborough. It was strange that men of that calibre could not attain to the heights that their critics wished. In his opinion the location of the sanatorium was ideal. It was true, much money had been spent on the institution, but it should be remembered that much good had been done.

Mr. Tilley said the honorable gentleman on his left (Murray), had unfairly criticized the investigating committee. He had said no notification of the committee's visit had been given. The superintendent of the sanatorium had been notified at least one week in advance, and it was with great

surprise that the members of the committee, on the morning of their arrival at the institution, learned that the superintendent had left a few hours before. They could only interview those whom they could find, and a court of inquiry was conducted which was quite as devious as the house sometimes was. How else could evidence be secured? This matter wasn't merely one of free beds in the institution. Since its establishment it had a revenue of \$49,000 and had expended upon it \$235,000. It was time for an investigation. He felt sure that the honorable minister of agriculture had investigated the farm connected with the sanatorium would have decided at once to stop its operation. No supplies were raised in sufficient quantities to meet the demand of the sanatorium. He realized that the commissioners were busy men who could not give the time they might desire to the running of the institution, and they should not take the committee's report too much to heart. That report was justified in every particular. The arrangement with the Dominion was the best, under the circumstances, and he hoped some civilian patients might be cared for.

Mr. Magee—"Messrs. Sumner and Robinson were notified of our visit and were to have been there."

Mr. Tilley—"There was a telephone message to that effect."

Mr. Murray (Kings)—"All I know is that I was not notified."

Hon. Mr. Foster suggested that the committee proceed with the bill and make more rapid progress.

Mr. Magrath asked concerning the buildings available for use.

Mr. Murray (Kings) replied that the original sanatorium was available, the stables having been rebuilt for use by the Dominion department.

Hon. Mr. Veniot objected to a section relating to the repairing of a road between River Glade and the Sanatorium.

Under that section the Department of Public Works would be compelled to repair that road and no other, for this act would be the only authority under which the controller general would permit expenditures. In spite of what was in this bill, the military authorities were pressing for the construction of a road to Petticoat, and the abandoning of the road mentioned except as an ordinary road.

Mr. Magrath said that care should be taken that this road would not be a sink hole, as the institution had been. The sanatorium was to be taken over from the province and he believed that the financial burden would gradually become lower, for as far as tuberculosis was concerned, people were getting to depend more on common sense home treatment. That was the case everywhere. The sanatorium craze was subsiding. This particular institution has an educational value, but the value of the treatment in any

sanatorium was not so great as advertised.

Mr. Magee called the attention of the minister of public works to an application of the people of Petticoat for the construction of a road to Esplanade which could be used in connection with the sanatorium.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said a survey of that road should be made, but an agreement already signed could not be altered.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said it would be easy to add a new section to the act. Hon. Mr. Byrne said he anticipated no trouble in dealing with this matter. Mr. Murray (Kings) said the minister of public works had announced

the construction of a new concrete culvert at Simpson Hill which would make the road passable for motor traffic.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said he did not pro-

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