

# TEACHERS SALARIES AND OTHER THINGS DISCUSSED

(Continued from Page Two.)

endeavoring to maintain and raise the standard of their profession. If the principle of this bill was right a man might be by legislation admitted as a lawyer, license as a teacher, or allowed to practice as a doctor without any qualifications. He believed that a man desiring to enter a profession should make some preliminary study. If there could be admission by legislation examinations of any kind need not be passed. Examinations evidently was what was in the way in this case. He did not believe that the hon. member for York (Crockett) would want a man legislated in the medical profession.

MR. CROCKETT—It would not worry me a bit.

MR. SWENNEY said that doctors were just as jealous as lawyers or members of any other profession. Legislation of this kind would open doors to any one.

MR. CROCKETT said he realized the difficulties under which any member must labor who supported a bill without the recommendation of the Committee. It meant that the bill had

been prejudged, but he was pleased to be able to say that the Committee had not been unanimous. One reason why the bill had not been recommended was that no credentials had been presented, and it had been held that Dr. Gerrard had no credentials in England. One member of the Dentist delegation had referred to him as an impostor. He proceeded to read an affidavit of Percy Harrison of Gateshead-on-Tyne, England, to the effect that Dr. Gerrard had occupied premises owned by him, as a practicing dentist, prior to 1890. He also read a solemn declaration from Dr. Gerrard himself to a like effect. The bill was for the purpose of legislating William Gerrard on to the dental register exactly as had been done in 1890 with dentists practising in New Brunswick prior to that date. If Dr. Gerrard had been in the province at that time he would have been admitted. This man begun as an apprentice at the age of 14 years. It was not fair to ask him to pass an examination at the age of 54 before a board of examiners known to be hostile to him. The opposition

him was the work of the smart men of the dental profession. It could not be urged that if the bill was passed there would be a rush of dentists from Great Britain. The bill applied only to those practicing prior to 1890 and the majority of them would be about 60 years of age. This matter was purely a local one. The four members for York and the two members for Sunbury supported the bill. The persecution of Dr. Gerrard had been going on for some time and last spring he served the sentence of ten days in jail rather than pay a fine of \$30. It had been a matter of principle with him.

HON. MR. ROBERTS said he regretted that he had to speak against the bill, but as a member of the medical profession which was protected by the laws he could do nothing else. He was surprised that the affidavit read had not been produced before the Law Committee. His own opinion was that there should not be two roads to any profession. It was essential that a standard be set and maintained. A Canadian making an application to be registered as a dentist in Great Britain under similar circumstances would not receive consideration. He felt assured that under the circumstances if Dr. Gerrard should make an application for examination, the special condition of his case could be taken into consideration, and his examination would be along practical lines. It would be better to do that than to upset the existing system.

MR. TILLEY said that the law committee of which he was a member

had heard representations from 40 dentists from all parts of the province in regard to the bill. They had decided not to recommend it, and he thought it would be strange if the House should over-ride the Committee's opinion and enact personal legislation for the benefit of one who failed to come up to the standard set by the profession. If they did that it would be useless to send young men to Dental or Medical colleges. He did not think the House should pass special legislation for the benefit of any individual. If they did that it would be opening the door for almost any fellow who might come to the House and say he wanted to be adopted. The Law Committee after hearing both sides had decided against the bill, and its decision should be sustained.

MR. DYSART said that as a member of the Law Committee he could not endorse the remarks which had been made by the previous speaker. He was sure that the affidavits read by the hon. member for York were genuine, otherwise he would not have produced them. The whole argument advanced by the Dental Society had been against Dr. Gerrard, although they pretended to be out to protect the interests of the people.

Personally he did not know Dr. Gerrard, but had heard him very highly spoken of as a Dentist. He had practiced in England thirty years ago, and should be placed on the same footing as Dentists in New Brunswick who had been brought in under the Act of 1890 without examination. He

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believed on principle that such organizations of a Dental Society, in which control was placed in the hands of a few individuals, and was often arbitrarily used, should be given a check.

MR. LEGER (West) said if he were to consider the matter from a sentimental standpoint he would support the bill. While the hon. member for York had made out a good case, he (Leger) did not think that the legislature should adjudicate on a matter of that kind. Different organizations were incorporated by the legislature, and were empowered to compel candidates for admission to pass certain examinations. It would certainly not be logical for the legislature to step in and over-ride one of its own laws. Should the House decide in favor of the bill, possibly he (Leger), who was quite expert as a tooth-puller, might during the next session make application for admission to practice.

MR. BAXTER said that like other hon. members he approached the subject with a great deal of difference. Should the bill pass, it meant that Dr. Gerrard would be admitted to the Dental Society against the will of the members, and that he thought would be going too far. He did not think any Dentist was injured by his competition. The fairest way might be to exclude him from the operation of the Act. He would then not be a member of the Dental Society, but would be immune from prosecution. He hoped the Dentists would be broad enough to settle the matter.

MR. SWENNEY said it was amusing to see two members of two professions in the House practically repudiating the standards of their professions. The claim had been put up that Dr. Gerrard had practiced his profession in the old country. It seemed fortunate that he was not born in New Brunswick for if he had been it would probably have been used against him. He did not think the legislature should undertake to lower the standard of any profession, or discourage those who were trying to raise that standard. If a lawyer were to be dismissed from the Barriers' Society for improper conduct, could he go to the legislature and seek admission again. The law committee after careful consideration had decided against the bill, and that ought to settle the matter. He would move that the bill be given the six months hoist.

MR. PINDER said that people were needed in the province, but if all were treated in the way Dr. Gerrard had been treated they would not stay long. He had practiced Dentistry in Fredericton and was looked upon by the people of York and Sunbury as a first-class man in his profession. So far as character was concerned, he would compare favorably with some who were recognized by the profession. All Dentists who came into the province from the United States and elsewhere prior to the passing of the Act were allowed to practice without examination, and Dr. Gerrard should have the same treatment.

MR. YOUNG said that no more was being asked for Dr. Gerrard than had been granted to those Dentists who were made members of the Society in 1890 without examination. The Doctor was almost a stranger to him, but he knew that he had a large practice in York and Sunbury and all spoke favorably of him.

The Committee divided on the amendment, which was lost by a vote of 20 to 11. The Chairman in reply to Mr. Tilley, who asked that the names be recorded, said it could only be done when the bill came before the House for a third reading.

The Committee agreed to the bill by a vote of 16 to 13.

The following bills were severally taken up by the committee and agreed to:—To amend the Municipal Debentures Act, to provide for the generation and electrical power, an Act respecting the incorporation of villages an Act relating to the Town of Dalhousie, an Act to incorporate the N. B. Branch of International Order of Kings Daughters and Sons respecting a certain trust, to amend an Act relating to the Demoiselles Summer

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## YORK STREET

Resort Company, a bill relating to the New Brunswick Power Company, a bill to amend the Act respecting Vocational Education.

The House again went into Committee and agreed to bills to amend an Act relating to the indemnity of members of the legislature, and to amend an Act relating to the levying of taxes in the city of St. John.

The Committee next took up consideration of a bill to amend an Act respecting the executive council. This Minister of Health.

MR. BAXTER Objects  
MR. BAXTER said that the opposition did not take any stand against the proposal that the Hon. Minister of Health should submit himself to the people. He believed it only right that any Minister upon taking charge of a department, which was expending public money should go to the people for their approval. He could not say, however, that the opposition approved of the payment of a salary to the Minister of Public Health. The Public Accounts of last year showed that less than \$28,000 had been handled by that Department, and less than \$31,000 was in the estimates for the coming year. He could not think that the interests of the county required that a Minister on full salary was necessary to look after the expenditure of (Continued on Page Seven).



## MAIL CONTRACT.

Sealed tenders, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 21st May 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, 12 and 6 times per week on the route Fredericton, Nashwaakasis and North Devon, commencing at the pleasure of the Postmaster General.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Fredericton and North Devon, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector:

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Post Office Inspector.

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Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque payable to the Hon. Provincial Secretary-Treasurer. The amount of such cheque to be as follows:

Road Chatham to Newcastle. \$3,000.00  
Road St. John to Westfield. 1,500.00  
Road near Spruce Lake. 1,000.00  
Road New River to Pennfield 2,000.00

Such certified cheque will be forfeited in case the tenderer fails to carry out his obligation.

Profiles and specifications may be seen at the Office of the Chief Engineer at Fredericton and at the Provincial Government Rooms, St. John. Blank tender forms may be had on application to the office of the Chief Engineer.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

P. J. VENIOT,  
Minister of Public Works,  
Fredericton, April 21, 1920.

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