

were five wholesale licenses, and the total number in the Province was 22. It would be seen that the bill concerned city municipalities only, and no others.

#### Brewers and Distillers.

There were 67 breweries and eight distilleries in the Province, a total of 75. The bill was so framed that the amount paid would depend upon the money invested in the brewery and distillery. There were 36 breweries which were classed as small breweries, and it was not expected that there would be any increase so far as they were concerned. As a matter of fact, out of all those small breweries only one brewery had suggested to the Department that the minimum fee of \$250 was too large, and in that case the owner had explained that owing to special circumstances it was not convenient for him to pay the amount that year. The new scale would be a graduated one, and the amount of increase would range from \$150 to \$1,000, depending, as would be seen by an examination of the bill, upon the amount invested in the business.

#### Distillers.

On the same lines the distilleries will pay much larger sums. There are eight of them in the Province, two of which are smaller distilleries, two of them in a sense very large, and the other four are in the middle class. The fee they will be asked to pay will range from \$750 to \$4,000 and upwards. All told, it is expected that the result of the bill as concerns distillers will be to increase the revenue of the Province to the extent of, say, \$24,000, as concerns the brewers to the extent of \$16,000, and as concerns the tavern, shop, wholesale and saloon licenses, by in the neighborhood of \$65,000 or \$70,000.

#### What They Will Pay.

The wholesale licensees in cities of 150,000 will hereafter pay \$450; in the second-class cities the licensees will hereafter pay \$400, and the wholesale licensees in smaller cities will hereafter pay \$350. The result of the bill in so far as it applies to taverns is as follows:—In large cities of the first-class (Toronto) the licensees will pay \$300, in the next class of cities \$250; and in the smaller cities \$200, and the saloon licensees will pay \$300. The total increase as to the wholesale licensees is approximately \$3,000, and as to the tavern licensees some seventy odd thousand dollars.

Mr. Matheson inquired what the total fee for brewers would be.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt in reply pointed out that the increase would range from \$250 to \$1,500, according to the amount invested, and in the case of distillers it will range from \$750 to \$4,000, according to the amount invested.

#### Fees Not Excessive.

It might be said that the exactions are larger than they need be, and Mr. Harcourt proceeded at some length to discuss this point. In the City of Toronto, with its 200 licenses, he was in a position to state, knowing the facts, that if there were 250 licenses more to be granted to-morrow there would be twice-250 people anxious to pay the increased fee and take out licenses. Hon.

gentlemen sitting in the House representing Toronto knew very well that there have been transactions in the city in which there had been paid for the license and good-will five thousand and odd dollars, and he could assure his hon. friends that the imposition of this increased fee will not operate to cut off a single license in Toronto, there having been paid in actual transactions in Toronto eight times, the increased fee the Government asked for a license. He had not discussed the question from an ethnical or moral or religious standpoint, but purely from the standpoint of revenue. The total receipts from license fees this year were about \$275,000, a reduction of \$50,000 or \$60,000 compared with a few years ago, caused by a reduction in the number of licenses, which a good many people had welcomed.

#### Fees Paid Elsewhere.

He compared this with the revenue from the same source in Quebec Province, where two cities alone contributed a larger revenue than the whole of Ontario by \$80,000. Albany, Buffalo, Rochester and other cities were quoted, in each of which the revenue derived from liquor licenses is many times that received in Toronto, where the licenses are also lower than in other Provinces of the Dominion. Comparisons with respect to brewers and distillers' licenses in other Provinces could not be so easily made, as they were not taxed on the same basis. In Quebec the tax is upon

the rental value, and in New Brunswick there is a level tax. The proposed fee for liquor licenses in the Province was also compared with like fees in the States of Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Illinois, disclosing the fact that the fees in all these States are much higher than those proposed by the bill. In Quebec, while the tax is twice as large as in Ontario, the Province gives back no part of it to the municipalities, whereas Ontario gives back one-half to the municipalities. He held that the bill is not an immoderate or extreme one, and pointed out that only one-third of the licenses are affected at all by the bill, and that in the opinion of those most interested, namely, the 200 license-holders in the City of Toronto, they will be glad to pay the increased fees which the act imposes. (Cheers.)

The bill was then read a first time.

#### The Revenue Bill.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt on rising to move the first reading of the bill to supplement the revenues of the Province was received with Government cheers. For days, he said, they had been discussing the financial condition of the Province, and it would therefore be wearisome were he to say much upon that subject or enlarge much upon it; but he desired to make two or three observations in which he believed his hon. friends opposite would agree. First he desired to observe that there has been no waste of public money, that every dollar of money appropriated has been expended for the purpose for which it was voted. Large expenditures have been made,