

# AMENDMENTS TO THE LICENSE ACT.

## Government Announces Some Important Changes.

### NO SALES TO MINORS.

### Inducement to Municipalities to Enforce the Law.

### Changes in the Game Act—The Lieutenant-Governor Assents to a Number of Bills—New Provisions for Constitution of County Councils.

Several important Government measures were introduced during yesterday's brief session of the Legislature, and his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor gave the royal assent to a number of bills that have been read a third time.

Hon. Mr. Hanna explained that his bill to amend the license act absolutely prohibits the sale of liquor to persons under 21 years of age. Under the present act minors may buy liquor if they have a written order from their parents or guardians. He believed the Licensed Victuallers' Association favored this amendment. Another amendment increases the cost of the transfer of a license to one-half of the cost of the license. The cost of a transfer at present is \$50 in Toronto, \$25 in other cities and \$10 elsewhere. The third and last amendment provides that where prosecutions are launched by the license department against violators of the law the whole of the fine imposed shall go to the department and none to the municipalities. At the present time municipalities get the whole of the fine imposed when prosecutions are made by the municipalities themselves, but when they are made by the department the municipalities get two-thirds of the fine and the department the remaining one-third, expenses of prosecution being deducted. This amendment Mr. Hanna thought would result in a determined attempt by many municipalities where there was now indifference to enforce the law, because they would not be able, as in the past, to enrich their treasuries at the expense of the department. It would also increase the amount at the disposal of the department for expenditure in attempting a better enforcement of the law. He instanced the sending of special officers into northern Ontario on this mission, and the excellent results that had followed.

### Brewers and Distillers' Licenses.

Hon. Mr. Hanna moved, and it was carried, to consider in Committee of the Whole on Monday the following resolutions:—

That the annual fee to be paid for a brewers' warehouse license shall be as follows:—In cities or towns having a population under 20,000, \$100; in cities or towns having a population of 20,000 and under 100,000, \$200; in cities or towns having a population of over 100,000, \$300. That the amount to be paid for a distillers' warehouse license shall be double the amount fixed to be paid for a brewers' license.

### Composition of County Councils.

Hon. Mr. Monteith introduced a bill to amend the municipal act by abolishing the clauses relating to the composition of County Councils, which now consist of commissioners representative of various districts, and going back to the

old system of having the Reeves and Deputy Reeves compose the Councils.

### Game Law Amendments.

Hon. Dr. Reaume's bill amending the game laws extends for five years the close season for quail, woodcock, snipe and partridge until 1910. These birds may be shot for private consumption, but must not be placed on sale. The close season for beaver and otter, which must not be taken or killed in any way, is also extended for five years. The open season for rabbits is to be extended from the 15th till the 31st December.

### Government Business First.

The Premier's motion that on and after Monday next, and on each day for the remainder of the session, Government business shall have precedence over all other business except private bills was carried.

Mr. Foy's amendment setting aside 92,160 acres instead of four townships of six miles square for the Toronto University will be considered in Committee of the Whole on Monday.

### Lieut.-Governor Assents to Bills.

Three minutes were occupied at the opening of the session by a visit from the Lieutenant-Governor. Escorted by the Premier and Captain Macdonald, he entered the north door of the chamber, attired in civilian garb, including a silk hat, which he wore throughout the proceedings. The Speaker had retired on the approach of his Honor, who ascended the vacant throne.

"Honorable members, be seated," he requested, and the Assistant Clerk read the following list of bills which had arrived at their final stage:—

An act respecting the Church of England Cemetery in the town of Ingersoll.

An act respecting the Stratford Y. M. C. A.

An act respecting the village of Grimsby.

An act respecting the city of Kingston.

An act respecting the London Street Railway Company.

An act to confirm certain alterations in the Point Pelee Marsh drainage system and consolidate its indebtedness, and to confirm by-law No. 1,493 of the city of St. Thomas.

An act respecting the Law Society of Upper Canada, to admit Wm. Edgar Foster to practise as a barrister and solicitor.

An act to incorporate the United Nickel Company of Canada.

An act to incorporate the Y. W. C. A. of London.

An act respecting the Nepigon Mining Lands Company.

An act to amend the act to incorporate the Lake Superior, Long Lake & Albany River Railway.

An act respecting the Hermina Mining Company.

An act to amend the act to provide for the incorporation of co-operative cold-storage associations.

An act respecting the consolidated revenue fund and the raising of loans authorized by the Legislature.

An act for raising money on the credit of the consolidated revenue fund of Ontario.

"In the name of his Majesty," said the Clerk of the House, "his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor assents to these bills." His Honor then rose, raised his hat, and retired by the Speaker's entrance, while the members stood in their places.

### Some First Readings.

The following bills were read a first time:—

Dr. Jessop—Respecting volunteer fire brigades and fire insurance companies.

Hon. Dr. Reaume—To amend the Ontario game protection act.

Hon. Mr. Matheson—Respecting the Algoma land tax, 1903.

Hon. Mr. Matheson—To amend the act respecting circuses and travelling shows.

Hon. Mr. Monteith—To amend the municipal act.

Mr. Lennox withdrew his bill to amend the municipal act.

Three bills were read a second time: To amend the land titles act—Mr.

Crawford.

To amend the registry act—Mr. Crawford.

To amend the loan corporations act—Mr. Gamey.

## CITY BILLS CONSIDERED

### STREET RAILWAY CLAUSES ARE LEFT OVER.

### To be Left to the Government Electric Commission—Toronto Junction Bill—Other Measures Before Private Bills Committee.

The city of Toronto had an innings with the Private Bills Committee yesterday morning when its bill authorizing agreements and expenditures was considered. The Avenue road extension was confirmed. The second clause validating the agreement with the G. T. R. was postponed to enable City Solicitor Fullerton and Mr. J. H. Macdonald, K.C., who appeared for the A. R. Williams Machinery Company, to draw a clause protecting the rights of that company. The third clause authorized the issue of debentures for \$110,500 for a freight shed on east side of block D, Harbor square, \$45,000.25; building on wharf between Yonge and Bay streets, \$15,000; erection of new morgue, \$20,000; extension of Jarvis street sewer, \$5,700; extension of Berkeley street sewer, \$3,500.30; a twelve-inch water main on Spadina avenue from Wellington street to College street, \$14,700; and a twelve-inch water main on Sterling road from Bloor street to Dundas street, \$6,600.

Chairman Carscallen said he remembered the strong stand Mr. J. M. Gibson took against such issues without a reference of a by-law to the people. Mayor Urquhart explained that the necessity had arisen since the last election, and that the expense of going to 40,000 ratepayers, 1,600 of whom voted on a similar by-law, was unwarranted. The freight sheds would soon pay for themselves and the water mains were necessary for fire protection. The clause was approved. The bill will come before the committee on Tuesday.

### The Street Railway.

The city's other bill was concerned with several important matters. The straightening of the River Don involves the rights of owners along the banks, and Mr. Allan Macnab appeared for the property-holders. A clause will be prepared to protect them, and the city will submit a by-law to cover the cost of any land required.

A long discussion occurred over the provision of conveniences for the Toronto Street Railway men. The committee were agreed that something should be done, and adjourned the consideration of the best method to be adopted. Mr. Samuel Blake, K.C., objected to "mere curstone talk." No complaints had been made to Mr. Fleming, who was prepared to deal with any representations made to him.

The clause giving power to the city to cancel the charter for failure to live up to the agreement also roused a lively discussion. Mr. S. H. Blake, K.C., represented \$7,500,000, he said, which had been invested in the expectation of reaping the profits of the latter part of the term of the charter. The railway had been increased from 60 miles to 108, and 60 millions of people were now carried. The cars ran 37,000 miles per day. The legislation sought was monstrous, and showed the audacity of the city. Mr. Graham thought the whole question should be left to the Government Electric Commission to be appointed. The railway clauses were left over.

To clause 4, giving the city power to sell electrical energy or light on the Island, the Toronto Electric Light Company raised objection. The Mayor explained that the city lighting contract expired next December, and might not be renewed. The city wished to be in a position to meet that possibility. Mr. Henry O'Brien was strenuously opposed to the