

MARCH 24, 1908.  
**INQUIRIES COST  
ONTARIO DEARLY.**

Interesting Returns Presented  
to Legislature.

**EXPENSIVE THREE YEARS.**

Conservatives Spent Much  
More Than Liberals.

**Whitney Government Paid Out Over  
\$136,000 Since Coming Into Power  
—New Automobile Bill by Mr.  
Bowman—Mr. Smith's Effort to  
Give to Women a Franchise Again  
Comes Up.**

During the last three years the Whitney Government have spent \$136,925.73 on investigations and commissions, and during the last three years of the former Administration \$50,083.76 was spent in similar objects. Yesterday in the Legislature returns were presented by the Provincial Secretary, giving the cost of each individual commission. A bill to regulate the operation of automobiles, somewhat less drastic than some others which have been brought up this session, was introduced by Mr. C. M. Bowman (North

Bruce). Once again Mr. John Smith (Peel) will attempt to gain the Legislature's sanction of his bill to extend the franchise to women, and he introduced his bill yesterday.

**The New Bills.**

The following new bills were introduced:—Respecting the act regulating the speed of automobiles, Mr. Bowman; to amend the election act, Mr. Smith (Peel); to incorporate the town of Keewatin, Dr. Smellie; respecting a certain by-law of the town of Clinton, Mr. Gamey.

Mr. Bowman's bill provides that persons having control of motor vehicles when meeting a horse outside city or town limits are to stop at least 100 yards distant, and shall not proceed or allow the motor to operate until the horse or horses are safely passed. If necessary the persons in charge of the horse are to be assisted. Provision is also made for cases when those running motor vehicles desire to pass horses from the rear. The bill also provides that no motor vehicle shall be allowed to run or stand upon any public highway in any municipality, excepting in a city, between 7 in the morning and 9 o'clock in the evening of Saturdays, and between 7 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon of Sundays.

**Franchise to Women.**

The bill of Mr. Smith (Peel) to amend the election act provides for the extension of the franchise to women. This is the same bill that Mr. Smith has introduced from year to year. It is being seconded by Dr. Smellie, who is by no means optimistic of its success.

The private bill respecting the city of Port Arthur was advanced through the committee stage. Second readings were accorded the bills to amend the act to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and diseases affecting fruit trees, Mr. Craig; to amend the municipal act, Mr. McCowan; to amend the municipal act, Mr. Fisher.

**Spent by Ross Government.**

The return asked for on motion of Dr. Preston (Lanark) for the cost of commissions during 1902, 1903 and 1904 was laid on the table by Hon. J. W. Hanna. These were as follows:—

Sept. 26, 1902—I. B. & O. Railway regarding workmen's claims; A. M. Dymond, commissioner; cost \$259.60.

March 28, 1903—Gamey investigation; commissioners, Chancellor Boyd and Chief Justice Falconbridge; cost \$44,626.20.

July 31, 1903—Mining disputes investigation; commissioner, Aubrey White; cost \$47.95.

May 20, 1904—Railway taxation commission; commissioners, H. J. Pettypiece, Prof. Adam Shortt and Judge Archibald Bell; cost, \$4,781.21.

June 30, 1904—Investigation regarding the granting of a license to John Bidgood, Sudbury; commissioner, James Wilmot Gordon; cost \$212.06.

April 17, 1904—Investigating charges against Frank Gagne, a Provincial constable at Sudbury; commissioner, Judge J. A. Valin; cost \$156.74.

**Where the Money Went.**

The return asked for by Mr. May (Ottawa) regarding commissions since 1904 was as follows:—

April 25, 1905—Dispute regarding mining location between W. G. Trethewey and the Nipissing Company; commissioner, Aubrey White; no cost.

May 4, 1905—Investigating the conduct of the West Kent License Commissioners; commissioner, Eudo Saunders; cost \$337.55.

July 5, 1905—First Hydro-electric Power Commission; commissioners, Hon. Adam Beck, George Pattinson, M.P.P., and P. W. Ellis; cost \$76,353.12.

July 14, 1905—Investigation regarding mining disputes in Coleman township; commissioner, Samuel Price; cost \$1,289.18.

October 3, 1905—University of Toronto Commission; commissioners, Prof. Goldwin Smith, Chief Justice Meredith, J. W. Flavelle, B. E. Walker, Canon Cody, Rev. D. Bruce Macdonald and A. H. U. Colquhoun; cost \$8,625.62.

January 22, 1906—Bastedo investigation; commissioner, J. C. Judd; cost \$1,193.

January 26, 1906—Second Hydro-electric Power Commission; commissioners, Hon. Adam Beck, George Pattinson, M.P.P., and John Milne; cost \$44,614.58.

February 7, 1906—Investigation regarding Registrar E. C. Whelihan of