

BAR-ROOMS TO FILL GOVERNMENT COFFERS

Plans to Increase Government Revenue

A bill introduced by the Provincial Secretary proposes:

To take 5 per cent. of all bar receipts over \$40 a day.

To send Government inspectors to check hotel-keepers' accounts.

To reserve to the Government the right to veto all licenses in the Province.

A bill introduced by the Provincial Treasurer proposes:

A heavier mileage tax on railway and express companies.

A transfer tax on stocks, bonds and debentures.

A daily tax on race-tracks.

Legislation Proposed Calls for Turning Over Part of Receipts.

HUNDRED THOUSAND ADDED TO REVENUE

Railways, Express Com- panies and Racetracks to Pay More.

Two of the most important measures the members of the Legislature have had before them in several years were introduced yesterday afternoon. Both are revenue-producing bills and both will probably meet with a storm of opposition when their contents are understood and their probable effect realized.

The recent work that license inspectors throughout the Province carried on in securing returns of bar earnings was explained when Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, briefly outlined the Government bill, by which the Province will receive five per cent. on all bar sales over forty dollars a day. The Provincial Secretary admitted that the bill was a departure from the principle hitherto followed, but was justified in view of the increased value of licenses as the result of the spread of the dry districts.

Hon. Mr. Hanna announced that the Government had enlarged the scope of the veto with respect to licenses, making it apply all over the Province. He introduced a bill designed to prevent druggists from abusing their privileges, by providing that a chemist's certificate becomes void upon a second conviction for breach of the license act.

Tax on All Stock Transfers.

The other bill was introduced by Hon. Mr. Matheson. Its principal provision calls for the imposing of a tax of two cents on every \$100 or fraction thereof of the par value of every transfer of stock, bonds, or debenture stock. The tax will be a hard blow to small lot speculation in cheap mining issues. The other taxes are an increase in the mileage tax on double-tracking of large railway systems, a more than doubling of the mileage tax on express companies and a tax on all racetracks.

A Large Revenue Increase.

The new revenue act is expected to add to the Provincial Treasury considerably over one hundred thousand dollars. The added revenue from the doubled tax on railway mileage, which applies only to double-tracking, is estimated at \$22,000. The express companies will be called upon to pay \$500 instead of \$200 for every mile over which they operate, an aggregate increase of some \$40,000, while the new tax upon racetracks of \$200 a day for the seven-day meets and smaller taxes on the smaller meets will mean an addition of \$15,000. The Provincial Treasurer is not prepared to estimate the return from stock transfers owing to the difficulty in gathering figures of stock sales, but it is expected to produce almost the

largest revenue increase.

Higher Tax on Double-tracking.

The first clause of the new bill provides that every railway company shall pay \$60 per mile for one track, as in the old clause, with \$40 per mile for each additional track. The former tax was \$20 a mile on double-tracking. This applies only to organized districts. In unorganized districts the tax on double-tracking is increased from \$10 to \$20, the tax on the first or single track remaining at \$40. The tax on systems of less than 150 miles is unchanged.

This clause does not apply to street or electrical railways.

Express Companies Pay More.

The tax on express companies is increased from \$800 for every 400 miles to \$500 for each one hundred miles.

Tax on Stock Transfers.

The clause dealing with the tax on stock transfers states that two cents shall be paid to the Provincial Treasury for every \$100 or fraction thereof of the par value upon every change of ownership consequent upon the sale of shares, bonds, debentures or debenture stocks carried into effect in the Province. The first delivery by the company of stocks, bonds, etc., is not subject to this tax.

The bill also provides that no corporation shall permit the record of any transfer to go upon its books unless the tax has been paid. If the tax is not paid both parties to the transfer are liable to a penalty.

These sections do not apply to any transfer or assignment of shares, bonds or debentures made for the security of loans, or to the retransfer or reassignment of the same. The section is to come into effect on the first of June, 1911.

Racetracks Are Assessed.

Every company, club or association owning or operating a racetrack at which there are meetings for more than three days will, according to the bill, be called upon to pay in advance a license fee of \$200 per day.

Driving or trotting tracks which hold meetings of three days or less are to be made to pay a fee of \$10 for one day, \$40 for two days, and \$60 for three days. In default of these payments the Provincial Police may stop all racing upon the track.

The New License Bill.

In introducing his license act amendments, the Provincial Secretary declared they "would result in a considerable increase in revenue from licenses in the Province. In doing this," he admitted, "we have departed somewhat from the present principle applied to the imposing of license fees. The licenses as they stand to-day and the license clauses of the act we leave undisturbed and untouched. Our plan has been to impose conditions to reach the licensees that can afford to pay more without doing an injustice to anyone. The plan we have adopted is this:—

"We propose to leave the sections of the license act, under which we have been licensing for the past 34 years, exactly as they are. We propose to amend the license act by having an addition over and above the present licenses of five per cent. on the sales in excess of \$40 a day. This is on bar receipts, whatever source they may be from. This does not include cigar stands or interfere with any other part of the house. It means that the hotel that is doing a trade in excess of \$40 per day is able to pay five per cent. in addition to the ordinary license fee."

A Monthly Return.

Hon. A. G. MacKay interrupted to inquire whether the \$40 was named in the act as an average return, to which the Minister replied that it was not. The department would receive a monthly return from the licensees. In practically all of the hotels which would come under the new clauses cash registers were kept, and there would be little difficulty in the way of bookkeeping. Provision was made, stated Hon. Mr. Hanna, requiring the hotelkeepers to keep proper accounts and to compel them to furnish monthly returns.

"This is not a revenue act," he continued, "but since the reduction of