

## UPKEEP COSTLY AT GOVT. HOUSE

Maintenance Charges Presented for Last Year Amount to \$28,000

### CLAIMS SUM EXCESSIVE

Liberal Members Consider Expenditure for Coal Was Extra High.

Government House cost the people of Ontario over \$28,000 last year. This amount included, among other things, the wages of an engineer and three firemen, and the cost of 967 tons of coal for the furnaces; it included the cost of bulbs, seeds and shrubs, and the wages of the head gardener and five assistants, and a few odds and ends, such as ink bottles, candlesticks, etc., which cost \$84, and a pine cupboard and cloak-rack which cost \$280. It did not, of course, include the Lieutenant-Governor's salary of \$10,000, which is paid by the Dominion Government; nor did it include the cost of food or the wages of domestic servants, which are paid out of the Governor's private purse.

This information came out in evidence before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature yesterday morning, when the Liberal members of the House questioned Mr. Fairbairn, Deputy Minister of Public Works, with reference to the cost of running Government House.

#### Six Thousand for Coal.

The 967 tons of coal required to feed what has been described as "the Ontario Government's white elephant," was considered an excessive amount by Liberal members of the committee. This coal cost over \$6,000. The sum of \$2,000 odd was paid for a porter and charwomen, while nearly \$700 was expended for gardeners' tools, bulbs, seeds, fertilizers, etc.

Mr. Sinclair (South Oxford) objected to the Liberals asking so many questions about Government House, and Mr. Carter (South Wellington) declared that if the information was not forthcoming, "we will put in a motion for information respecting every Government House item which appears in the public accounts, and we will keep you here every morning till the end of the session until we get the information. Mr. Sinclair is deliberately trying to block our attempts to get this information, and we cannot make any progress."

Mr. Fairbairn explained that the item of \$84 under the heading of "candlesticks and ink bottles," really included other things, but the ink bottles and candlesticks were probably the principal items.

That there is a good deal of "red tape" in connection with the purchase of supplies was indicated by the statement of Mr. Fairbairn that, to satisfy the Provincial Auditor, a special warrant had to be secured before the sum of \$7.75 could be expended for a pair of rubber boots.

#### Some Additional Items.

It was stated that, in addition to the \$28,000 for running Government House, the sum of \$2,050 was paid to the Lieutenant-Governor "for running his office in the Parliament buildings," and that an additional \$1,400 was paid in salary to his aide, Honorary Colonel Alex. Fraser, who also receives the salary of \$2,500 as Provincial Archivist.

When the Liberals spoke of the 967 tons of coal as excessive, Mr. Fairbairn said that when the Governor-General comes to Toronto he stays at Government House, and brings a party of seventeen or so persons with him.

"But surely there is lots of room in that blooming place for seventeen people," said Mr. Clarke (West Northumberland). "I've had that many visitors in my house."

## WOULD AMEND HIGHWAY ACT

Safeguards for Traffic in Bill Introduced by G. H. Gooderham, M.P.P.

Amendments introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Mr. George H. Gooderham (Southwest Toronto) to the Highway Travel Act and the Motor Vehicles Act seek to set up additional safeguards for the protection of both pedestrians and drivers of vehicles. These amendments provide:

That every vehicle, other than a motor car or traction engine, shall carry a lighted lamp on the left hand side.

That owners of vehicles having licenses must give notice of changes of address.

That a penalty not exceeding \$50 shall be imposed upon persons making false statements with the object of securing a license.

That every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be equipped with an approved muffler.

That every motor vehicle, on a highway after dark, shall carry three lighted lamps, visible at 200 feet distance.

That markers issued by the department to motor vehicle owners shall be returned at the end of the year, violators of this clause to be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$10.

#### Stiff Penalties for Violations.

That when an owner or driver of a motor vehicle is convicted for an offence against the Criminal Code or for a third time for violating the Highway Travel Act, or where it is proven to the satisfaction of the Minister of Public Works and Highways that the owner or driver was driving recklessly, the Minister may prohibit such person driving a motor vehicle for a period not exceeding two years. A penalty not exceeding \$500 may be imposed if such persons drive a motor vehicle during the time of their suspension.

That no person shall throw or deposit on a highway any glass, nails, tacks, scraps of metal or other material which may be injurious to the tires of motor vehicles.

That only those who are registered shall be allowed to drive a motor vehicle.

That the right and left side of the street shall refer to the right or left of the centre line.

The bill also provided that the speed limit should be increased from 20 to 25 miles in the country and 15 to 20 miles in the city.