

average cost of Lake Nipigon fish was \$5.70 per hundred pounds. He gave the following summary: Expenses in connection with the sale of fish were \$32,679; repaid to the Treasury, \$25,558; accounts outstanding, \$2,181; fish on hand, 100,000 pounds, valued at \$9,019; total receipts, \$36,610; leaving a balance on hand of \$3,940.

Mr. Proudfoot suggested that an expert on fishing matters should be appointed to handle the business for the Government, as it is a business on which large sums of money may be lost. At one time, he said, he had doubted the advisability of the Government going into the business, not only because of the money involved, but because of it interfering with men already in the business. And he urged that it would be well to consider the interests of the men in the business, who have large sums invested.

## PROVINCE OUGHT TO GET TAXES

City of Toronto's Bill to Get Additional Revenue is Defeated at Legislature

### PROPOSE LEVY ON MOTORS

Municipalities Enabled to Make Grants for Patriotic Purposes.

By a decision yesterday the Municipal Committee of the Legislature made it plain that it is of opinion that the Province is entitled to the revenue derived from taxes on motor vehicles, and not the municipalities. This issue was at stake in the city of Toronto Bill to amend the Municipal Act, so as to secure additional revenue by a wheel tax. Like most other city bills that have come before the Legislature at this session, it was overwhelmingly defeated.

Works Commissioner R. C. Harris said that the city has a heavy expense in the maintenance of its roadways. Within the last ten years there has been a great change in the weight of traffic. The city estimated the additional revenue under the bill at \$80,000.

Mr. George H. Gooderham said that there were two bad features of the bill. The one was the difference made between motor and horse-drawn vehicles, and the other was whether the municipalities or the Province were to receive the taxes derived from motor vehicles.

#### Amendment Lost.

Mr. Proudfoot said that the trouble was that the taxes had all been going to the Province. The principle involved was very important. He moved an amendment that the clauses referring to horse-drawn vehicles be struck out, but this was lost. The remaining clauses were also voted down.

The second clause of the bill, by which the city asked permission to tax transient contractors at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 per cent. on work done in the city, was referred to the special Assessment Committee. It was supported by City Solicitor Pearce, who said at present \$50,000,000 of construction work is contemplated in the city, much of it by outside firms, and they are not being taxed by the municipality.

Another amendment to the Municipal Act, giving the city power to regulate and control the location, erection or use of any building to be used as a garage in residential districts, was referred to a special

Committee, which will report this morning. The city was willing to allow a two-car garage to be erected, and the Ontario Motor League asked that space should be allowed for four cars.

#### May Make Grants.

The committee approved of the amendment of the statutes authorizing municipalities to make grants for patriotic purposes. The amendment also provided for the insurance of British reservists who were residents of a municipality six months prior to joining the British forces.

A bill sponsored by Mr. G. S. Henry (East York) to amend the Highways Act, so as to give municipalities power to close highways while they are undergoing repairs or are being constructed, was reported. After closing the road the corporation or county must provide an alternative route and place such signs as will guide the travelling public.

Mr. Proudfoot brought in an amendment to remove the time limit of seven days, now required by persons filing claims against municipalities for damages because of accidents, and which would have left it to the Judge to decide the justice of the claim. The bill was opposed by City Solicitor Johnston, who pointed out that the time limit eliminated many fake claims. Even under the existing law many such claims are filed against the city of Toronto. The bill was defeated by a vote of 17 to 11.

## WANT OVERSEAS POSTAGE FREE

Motion in Legislature to Urge Farmers' Co-operation in Production

Notice of motion has been given by Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce) that he will introduce in the Legislature to-morrow a motion asking the House to memorialize the Dominion Government to enact a law to change the postal regulations so as to permit letters, parcels and other communications to soldiers overseas to be carried free of charge.

Mr. Nelson Parliament (Prince Edward) also gave notice of a motion he will move on Thursday urging upon the Government the necessity of soliciting the co-operation of the farmers themselves to aid in solving the problem of increased production, by encouraging them to organize for the discussion of questions relating to agriculture, with the object of presenting their own views to the Government as to the best means of remedying the conditions now existing due to the scarcity of farm help, and of effecting an immediate increase in the production of foodstuffs, which is of such pressing importance in relation to the war at this time.

Three notices of motion are given by Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington), calling upon the Government to enter into negotiations with the Dominion and Imperial Governments to secure united action to acquire absolute control of nickel mines and nickel product in Ontario; to secure control of nickel-refining plants in Ontario, and urging the Provincial Government to institute proceedings under the Mining Tax Act to recover from the Canadian Copper Company the arrears of taxes due by it under that act for the years 1912 to 1915, inclusive.