

LITTLE NEW IN LIQUOR PROBE

Witnesses Heard Before the
Public Accounts Com-
mittee

SALE OF SEIZED LIQUOR

Three witnesses were called to testify before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature yesterday when the inquiry into the Dewart charges against Chief License Inspector J. A. Ayearst was resumed. Mr. W. S. Dingman, Vice-Chairman of the board, was on the stand for the most of the morning, although Mr. J. F. Mowat, Auditor and Accountant of the Commission, was recalled for a short time, and Mr. Joseph E. Rogers, Superintendent of the Provincial Police, was asked a number of questions. However, notwithstanding the two and a half hour examination which was energetically conducted by Mr. H. Hartley Dewart, K.C., and Lt.-Col. H. C. Machin, little new information was adduced, and even it was of no great importance.

Mr. Dewart sought particularly to ascertain the details of the sales of liquor to vendors by inspectors. Mr. Dingman told him, however, that such sales could be made only on the authority of the board, although they might be delivered by the inspectors. He admitted that the board had had little to do with the actual transfer of the liquor from the amounts seized to the vendors. The question of the price charged the vendors had been left very largely to the inspectors. The Vice-Chairman told Col. Machin that a Mr. Oakes, representing the Committee of One Hundred, had done some work for the Commission. This man had been loaned by that committee, and he had conducted investigations as to the shipments of liquor into Ontario from Montreal. His employment did not cost the Government anything.

Seizures of Liquor.

At the last session of the committee it was stated that there had last year been indiscriminate searching of baggage on trains west of North Bay for liquor. It was stated at that time that Mr. Joseph E. Rogers had written one of his officers in connection with the matter. Yesterday Mr. Rogers read a letter of instruction to the Provincial constable who, it was alleged, made the searches, informing him that he had no right to examine baggage except upon reasonable suspicion that liquor was being illegally carried. Mr. Rogers subsequently told Mr. C. S. Cameron of North Grey that when his department employed detectives—and they had used the different local agencies—they had had to pay six dollars a day, compared with five dollars a day charged by the Employers' Detective Agency to the License Board. His department had used them in connection with criminal work in locating foreigners.

Mr. Mowat explained to the committee the record kept in the department of seizures of liquor made, the sales to vendors and the amounts given to hospitals. He told Mr. Dewart that the board had on record invoices of all sales of liquor. These Mr. Dewart asked to be produced.

The inquiry will be resumed at 9.30 this morning.

OPTOMETRISTS MUST REGISTER

Board of Five Examiners to
Issue Certificates to Those
Qualified

Optometrists practicing in Ontario must in future be registered with a board of five examiners, who will issue certificates to those properly qualified. The Legal Committee of the Legislature yesterday approved a bill sponsored by Mr. E. W. J. Owens, to regulate the practice of optometry. Mr. W. G. Maybee, President of the Canadian Optometrists' Association, headed a deputation which endorsed the bill. He stated that it would not create a monopoly, but merely prevent the use of the title "optometrist" by those not entitled to it. The difference between an "optician" and an "optometrist," he explained by stating that the former was really one who only ground lenses.

Although the deputation protested, the committee decided that for the protection of the public, it should report favorably on a clause providing that all optometrists must furnish their customers with a certificate and specifications of the variety of lens supplied with every purchase.

At the suggestion of Mr. William Proudfoot, K.C., the Opposition Leader, the bill to amend the Mechanics' and Wage Earners' Lien Act was referred to a special committee.