

Confer Governing Powers On Ontario Architects

In the Legislature yesterday H. P. Hill of Ottawa West introduced a bill which, if put into effect, will place Ontario architects upon much the same footing as other professions possessed of controlling powers. The measure provides for the creation of a board of five, composed of architects of standing, appointed for five years by the Government, with one retiring each year. Licensing powers would be conferred upon it, and provision is made for penalties to be imposed upon persons not registered and not licensed. Persons who have hitherto been engaged in architectural work may secure registration by the payment of the necessary fee.

Proposed Legislation To Control Gas Price

A special committee of the Legislature will deal with Hon. Harry Mills' new Gas Control Bill, which will place in the hands of the Minister and a gas referee control over the production and distribution of gas, and the right to fix prices, irrespective of contracts and franchise agreements. After being given second reading yesterday, it was sent on to the committee, which will be composed of the following: Hon. Mr. Mills, Messrs. Crockett, Stringer, Tolmie, Cooper (Welland), Henry, Allen, Brackin.

"FLYING SQUAD" COST BIG FIGURE

Expenses of Corley's Sleuths
Come Before Public Accounts Committee

BIG BILLS OF SPRACKLIN

Interesting facts as to some of the methods of paying for the enforcement of the Ontario Temperance Act were brought to light before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature yesterday when Mr. J. F. Mowat, Chief Clerk and Accountant in the License Branch, was called to give evidence in regard to certain payments to inspectors and others.

Mr. H. H. Dewart, the Liberal Leader, took charge of the examination of the witness, and called attention to an item of \$1,674.49 for travelling expenses paid to Rev. J. O. L. Spracklin.

"Who is Mr. Spracklin?" asked Mr. Dewart, naively.

"He is a specially appointed Provincial officer, appointed temporarily," replied the witness.

Rather Fine Motor.

Mr. Mowat, replying further to Mr. Dewart, said a car was supplied to Mr. Spracklin for the special use of his district. It was a Paige touring car, the entry being for \$5,007.60, chargeable to law enforcement account. The invoice for the car showed the price to be \$4,700, the balance of the amount being for extra fittings and \$201.60 for insurance. The car was purchased expressly for Mr. Spracklin and his squad. The witness admitted that the Paige is a very high-class car.

Mr. Dewart read a number of items from which it appeared that Mr. Spracklin charged \$1.50 and \$2 per hour for the use of his own car. This price the witness considered cheap.

The department also supplied Mr. Spracklin with a gasoline launch, at a cost of \$3,500, for use on the river. Mr. Dewart also called the attention of the witness to frequent charges for taxis, but Mr. Mowat could not say why the taxis were required,

though he said Mr. Spracklin's men required extra cars. Mr. Spracklin simply gave vouchers for the various accounts, and the amounts were paid.

Spracklin Paid Hallams.

Witness could not give any information as to payments made by Mr. Spracklin for travelling expenses for the Hallam brothers, and said the reason these two men were paid by Mr. Spracklin, instead of direct by the department, was because they were engaged by him and subject to dismissal by him. Spracklin had power to hire any assistance he required.

Attention was called by Mr. Dewart to a payment of \$432 for wages for two detectives, the "incidental expenses" for the two men being \$333.25. Mr. Mowat said it was impossible to place any check on the expenses of these operators, as, when they had to pay high prices for drinks and bottles of whiskey, their expenses soon ran up. It was quite impossible to check up these expenses. If the department required the men to supply hotel vouchers it would mean that they might be detected as operators.

Regarding "Flying Squad."

Mr. Dewart referred the witness to a payment to W. J. Ward of \$1,000.

Mr. Mowat explained that Ward is a Sergeant of Detectives in Toronto, and was one of what was known as the "Flying Squad," which was under the direction of Mr. Corley. The \$1,000 was a payment in advance, as Ward hired any men he wanted. Ward used his own car, and was allowed \$10 a day for it.

Replying to Mr. Homuth, witness said the "Flying Squad" cost about \$2,000, and the convictions they secured realized about \$1,100 in the way of cash. There were fifteen convictions, but thirteen of the offenders went to jail. If they had all paid their fines the "Flying Squad" would have proved a good investment for the Province.

COOPER REPORT ON CHIPPAWA KNOCKED INTO COCKED HAT IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS

Hydro's Estimate of Cost
and Time and Government's
Action in Going Ahead Are Fully
Vindicated, Says Premier
Drury

GLOWING REPORTS IN LEGISLATURE

Developments since the receipt last spring of the adverse Cooper report on the Chippawa power plant have completely justified the Hydro Commission in its contentions and vindicated the view of the Government when it proceeded with the work, declared Premier Drury, in discussing on the floor of the Legislature last night the Cooper report, which was very pessimistic of success in connection with the big project.

The report made last fall was, he admitted, "kept carefully under cover" since then. To have published its contents, he declared, would have injured the credit of the Province and made more difficult the already hard work of financing the project. The Government, he maintained, was quite justified in the course it took with regard to the document.

Taken Quite Seriously.

Whatever the opinions of individuals in the Government might