

# LIQUOR PROFITS HIGHER NOW?

Hon. W. E. Raney Objects to  
Lower Assessment on  
Distilleries

## BRACKIN BILL IS HOISTED

The bill introduced by R. L. Brackin, Liberal member for West Kent, to reduce the assessment on distilleries, after considerable discussion in the Legislature yesterday, was held over until an opinion is obtained from the law clerks as to its effect on present laws. Mr. Brackin argued that the bill should go to committee, and then the committee could hear the arguments of all concerned. The Attorney-General was opposed to this course. He saw no reason, he said, why the bill should go to committee. He understood distillers were making more profits now, relative to their output, than they ever did. Why should there be a change in assessment now? he asked. Was it because of less business, or did the distillers want special favors, or were they making less profits?

There was objection taken to the bill also on the ground that if it was passed the distillers would escape the business tax altogether. Mr. Brackin contended that if the bill passed distilleries would automatically be classified as manufacturers; at any rate, the distillers did not wish to escape paying a tax.

The legal tangle will be cleared up by the law clerks.

A bill to permit the selling of hydrogen peroxide in places other than drug stores passed second reading. F. Rennie (South Bruce) introduced a bill to amend the Disqualifications Act. This was opposed by W. J. Johnston, U.F.O. member for South Lanark, and the question was raised also that the bill might affect civil rights. It was held over.

Second reading was given A. P. Mewhinney's bill to amend the Municipal Drainage Act, providing that a corporation was not liable by reason of the blocking of a drain by snow or ice.

# HIGHWAY FINANCES PROBED BY DEWART

Royal Commissioner Participates in Payment for  
Crushed Stone

When the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature met at the Parliament Buildings yesterday, H. H. Dewart, K.C., advanced vigorous criticism of the manner in which the accounts of the Ontario Department of Highways were kept. Mr. Dewart contended that expenditures were not properly classified, and that the statements of the department's receipts were not given in sufficient detail.

With Deputy Minister of Highways W. A. McLean as witness, Mr. Dewart elicited the statement that advances were made to the department without Orders-in-Council to authorize them, or without having been submitted to the Cabinet.

"It begins to appear," commented the member for Southwest Toronto, "as though this Department of Highways were an unlimited spending department."

"Not at all," interjected Hon. F. C. Biggs, Minister of Highways. "Every dollar that is appropriated is passed by the House."

Mr. Dewart also inquired concerning an item of \$10,816 for crushed stone paid to the Point Anne Quarries, Limited, with which M. J. Haney, Port Credit, recent appointee to the Royal Commission investigating Hydro expenditures, is connected. Hon. Mr. Biggs said that the Mr. Haney cited was an official of the company, and was one of the Royal Commissioners.

## APPROVES CURRY'S BILL.

The Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday approved of the principle of J. W. Curry's bill, under which municipal corporations may defer for a period of three to fifteen years the taking over and commencement of work on land required for establishing, extending and widening or diverting a highway.