

AMUSEMENT TAXES GOVERNMENT GETS RUN INTO MILLIONS

Nearly \$2,000,000 Paid to
Government by Toronto
in Three Years

QUERIES ASKED IN HOUSE

In three years, 1920, 1921 and 1922, the cities of Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and Ottawa have contributed more than \$2,500,000 to the Provincial Government in the form of amusement taxation. The amount represents about half of the Provincial revenue from that source. Of this big total Toronto alone paid over to the Government more than \$1,800,000.

Provincial Treasurer Peter Smith brought down the amusement tax statistics relating to the four cities in the Legislature yesterday in reply to a question by J. McNamara, Riverdale. He gave the details for each city for each of the three years, which are as follows:

Toronto—1920, \$602,749; 1921, \$630,033; 1922, \$599,743.

Hamilton—1920, \$125,919; 1921, \$127,393; 1922, \$112,724.

Ottawa—1920, \$67,245; 1921, \$70,238; 1922, \$75,125.

Windsor—1920, \$22,354; 1921, \$20,472; 1922, \$17,572.

In addition to Mr. McNamara's question, Cabinet Ministers disposed of a dozen others before the orders yesterday. Hon. Mr. Biggs informed the House that \$46,765 had been applied to the planting of trees along Provincial public highways, and that 12 1-2 per cent. of the trees had died, being replaced at an average cost of \$1.28 each.

In reply to H. P. Hill's query, Hon. Manning Doherty said that 20 townships had received grants under the Community Halls Act, the total being around \$33,000. A question from the Conservative end of the House as to whether E. W. Backus accompanied the Premier to Ottawa in a private car on a certain occasion brought a negative answer.

Mr. McCrea elicited the information from the Attorney-General that on October 31, 1921, Government dispensaries had in stock \$1,121,000 worth of liquor, and on October 31, 1922, \$784,078. In 10 months ending October 31, 1922, Government receipts from liquor sales were \$3,452,372.

Would Know Expense Of O.T.A. Enforcement

Among the questions directed to the Drury Ministry introduced into the Legislature yesterday was one from G. Eventurel, Prescott, asking for details of amounts spent on O.T.A. enforcement during 1920, 1921 and 1922. The same member asks if it is the intention to amend the Dairy Standards Act this session.

Mr. Eventurel also has a motion for a return of all correspondence relating to the removal from office of Fortunat Gadieux, Bailiff, L'Orignal, Prescott county, and the appointment of Albert Rochau.

J. W. McLeod, Stormont, asks for a return showing the names of members of the permanent staff of the Hydro-electric Commission who have been granted an increase in salary since January 1, 1923, and the amount of such increases.

HAVE TO SECURE FIAT TO PROSECUTE HYDRO

H. H. Dewart Proposed Bill
to Do Away With
This

Yesterday a dozen new bills were introduced for first reading at the Legislature, including one by H. H. Dewart, K.C., Liberal member for Southwest Toronto, which would do away with the necessity for a fiat from the Attorney-General before any action for damages can be brought against Hydro-electric railways in Ontario, where personal injuries are sustained owing to negligence on the part of employees of the corporation. It would apply also to railways operated by the Hydro Commission.

Attorney-General Raney brought down his Commercial Agreements Act, better known as the Anti-combine law, which has been thoroughly threshed out in Special Committee, and Premier Drury had a bill to give corporate existence to the Northern Ontario Fire Relief Committee. In addition, K. K. Homuth, Waterloo, brought in an amendment to the Athletic Commission Act, giving that body power to investigate anything that might be brought to their attention by different organizations.

As has been previously explained, this year's Anti-combine bill would give the Attorney-General's Department the right to inquire into the books of any alleged combine before actually instituting legal action.

Regulation of Streams

Discussed in Legislature

The Legislature put in the usual short day at Queen's Park Friday afternoon. After the introduction of a number of new bills, answers to questions and second-reading discussion of two measures, members began to drift away for late afternoon trains and the House had to adjourn at 4.30 for lack of a quorum.

Hon. Walter Rollo's bill to give the Provincial Health Board jurisdiction over streams used by manufacturers encountered unexpected criticism, but it was finally given its second reading. From opposite the Government came the caution that too stringent regulation of these streams might impose serious handicaps upon manufacturers who had been long accustomed to utilize them for the deposit of refuse.

Another measure, an important one, Attorney-General Raney's Blue Sky law, was brought down for second reading about 4.15 p.m., and, after desultory discussion among three or four of the dozen-odd remaining members, Mr. Raney adjourned the debate for fuller attendance. Hon. G. H. Ferguson discussed the bill briefly and foresaw some difficulties in connection with the proposal to set up a Commissioner of Securities, whose duty it would be to blacklist fraudulent flotations.

It was Hon. Mr. Ferguson who suggested that it was primarily a measure for the attention of legal members, and, as there were only three in the House at the moment—himself, J. W. Curry, K.C., and Mr. Raney—he thought it would be well to lay it over. He thought the House would be particularly interested to hear at some length the views of J. W. Curry, K.C., who presided during the recess over the special committee which considered the Blue Sky Bill.

Members of Legislature Invited to See Orillia

Premier Drury and members of the Legislature have been invited by the Board of Trade of Orillia to take a day off and visit that town in a body. In the invitation forwarded by the President of the organization Orillia's attractions are set forth, and, it is pointed out, the day would not be altogether wasted, because members could look over the Provincial Hospital for the Feeble-minded, an institution in which Ontario has invested a million dollars. A banquet is also scheduled.