

# MAKES IT CRIMINAL TO USE FALSE NAME ON HOTEL REGISTER

## Attorney-General Offers Bill to Make Hotels "Clean and Decent"

### MEETS SOME OPPOSITION

The Legislature yesterday afternoon disposed of a large number of minor bills with unusual celerity only to balk at giving second reading to Attorney-General Raney's bill to penalize falsification of entries in hotel registers.

#### House Had Dwindled.

After Mr. Raney had explained his measure; after Premier Drury had declared the intention of the Government to do all it could to create "decent conditions" in Ontario hotels, and after R. L. Brackin had declared that the Attorney-General was trespassing on Federal jurisdiction, Hon. Thomas Crawford broke up the discussion by solemnly announcing that the House was without the required quorum of 20 members.

The Premier immediately called for the adjournment, and for the second time during the afternoon the Attorney-General was forced to forego the satisfaction of advancing his legal children along the legislative highway. His other disappointment came when Hon. G. S. Henry objected to resumption of the debate on second reading of the Blue Sky law, on the ground that Charles McCrea, who had adjourned the debate, was not present. Mr. Raney finally compromised by postponing further discussion until Monday afternoon of next week.

#### Homuth's Bill Rejected.

Rejection of K. K. Homuth's bill to provide for the examination and certifying of garage mechanics was the only other feature of the afternoon's legislative business. J. C. Tolmie (Liberal, Windsor), the sponsor, and two other Labor members were the only voting supporters of the bill. The general attitude of the House was more or less accurately described by R. L. Brackin (Liberal, West Kent), who declared that the measure should be entitled "An Act to Promote Highway Robbery."

In moving second reading of the bill to prevent false registrations at hotels, Mr. Raney stated that the measure had the backing of the hotelmen of the Province. The bill seeks to provide penalties for failure of the hotelkeeper to register a guest, for registration of a guest under a false name, and for registration of an unmarried couple as husband and wife. Proposed maximum penalties in the second instance are \$200 fine or three months' imprisonment, and in the last mentioned a \$500 fine or three months' imprisonment.

#### To Make Hotels Clean.

"This bill is designed to assist the hotelmen in keeping clean hotels," said Mr. Raney. The suggestion had been made that the measure should apply to rooming houses, but the speaker felt that the Province had no jurisdiction in that respect. For that reason the bill dealt only with standard licensed hotels.

On two occasions similar measures had been passed by the House of Commons only to be thrown out by the Senate. The most important section of the bill dealt with what was designated as "an evil which is only too common in hotels everywhere."

K. K. Homuth objected that it was not a crime for a man to change his name. There might be reasons why he should.

"It is not a crime," replied the Attorney-General, "but it ought to be under certain circumstances. A man ought to use his own name when he is travelling. I know of no reason why an honest man should not use his own name when he registers at a hotel. Adultery is not a criminal offense," said Mr. Raney.

who added that was no reason why people should be encouraged to use hotels for immoral purposes.

#### Brackin Objects.

R. L. Brackin objected to the bill on two counts. "We propose to make something an offense in a hotel which is not an offense in a boarding house," he said. "In principle the bill deals with a matter which is under the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament."

The bill was designed to do something which the Dominion House had twice refused to do—make adultery a criminal offense. How could the Province make adultery committed in a hotel a criminal offense and not take similar action with regard to adultery committed in a boarding house? The measure was merely another instance of the desire to impose restrictions and regulations on the conduct of individuals. "First thing we know, we'll be regulating the time of a man's getting up and his going to bed."

#### Premier in Accord.

Premier Drury repudiated the suggestion implied in the latter remark. "If the Dominion is lax, that is no reason why this Government should not go as far as it can to bring decent conditions," he said. "Not only the hotelmen, but the travelling public have a right to protection against enforced association with people who are using the hotels for immoral purposes."

J. E. Thompson (Conservative, Northeast Toronto) secured second reading for a bill to employ Boards of Health to require proper sterilization of appliances used in the manufacture of soft drinks.

## SAYS PRICE IS HIGH FOR AUTO MARKERS

### W. I. Banfield Claims Province Loses Over \$10,000 by Deal

#### HAD MADE FOUR TENDERS

With W. I. Banfield, General Manager of W. H. Banfield & Sons, Toronto, in the witness box, the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature proceeded yesterday morning to inquire further into the contract for 1923 automobile markers. Mr. Banfield's firm was one of the unsuccessful tenderers, and he was brought by the Opposition critics of the transaction to give evidence as to the comparison between the markers accepted and those which he would have supplied had he been awarded the contract.

#### Matter of Over \$10,000.

Multiplying the difference in the number of cents per pair between his price and the price the Government is paying the Canadian Color Type Company by 263,000, the approximate number of markers supplied the Province, Mr. Banfield presented to the committee the information that the Government would have saved from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in accepting any one of his four tenders on the work. With Mr. Banfield as expert, the committee, in some detail, went into the question of steel and its varying quality, witness admitting that the Government had received a plate of the full gauge for which it had paid—a little over gauge, if anything.

Hon. F. C. Biggs pressed the witness for the amount of experience his firm had had in manufacturing automobile marker plates, and Mr. Banfield admitted that it had had no experience in that particular article. Hon. F. C. Nixon, taking a brief hand in the examination, sought to emphasize the point that the Banfield sample marker had been made outside the Banfield premises, the tenderer only painting it. To these arguments, however, the manufacturer presented the opinion that automobile markers were easily made, requiring no actual experience, and that the die problem had necessitated the stamping of the sample

plate at another plant.

#### Not as Specified?

Mr. Banfield was firm in his opinion that the open clause in the contract, which the Deputy Minister had said was put in to secure the benefit of manufacturers' inventive genius, was distinctly unfair to tenderers. It left the thing wide open, he said, for the Government to give it to whom it liked. And, he declared, the markers accepted by the Government were not according to specifications, in that they were an inch or so under specified dimension one way and approximately the same length over on the other measuring line. However, Government members quickly established the fact that this change did not involve an under-supply of steel.

W. H. Price, Conservative member for Parkdale, examined the witness, with Hon. Mr. Biggs, and Government members generally, upholding the Government's side of the controversy.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL IS QUERY TARGET

### Has Busy Afternoon Answering Questions—To Enlarge Toronto Police Court

#### APPOINTMENT OF HELLYER

According to Hon. W. E. Raney, the Provincial Government is somewhat perturbed over the lack of proper accommodation for witnesses appearing in the Toronto Police Court. Replying to a question asked by W. H. Price (Conservative, Parkdale) in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, Mr. Raney said that the matter had been the subject of correspondence between his department and the local civic officials. "It is the desire of the Government that such should be done," added the Attorney-General, in answer to the query as to whether better accommodation for witnesses would be afforded, instead of the present use of corridors.

This was but one of a dozen replies to questions on a variety of subjects. Total cost of the Public Service Commission was stated by Mr. Raney to have been \$26,776. Between December 31, 1921, and February 1, 1923, eleven O.T.A. enforcement officers had been dismissed. Two had been suspended. H. H. Dewart, K.C., had asked for the names of the thirteen, but the Attorney-General stated their publication was not in the public interest. Any member of the House could secure the information privately, however.

Mr. Raney also satisfied Mr. Dewart's thirst for information with reference to the Government's treatment of Albert Hellyer, present Police Magistrate for Wellington county. Mr. Hellyer resigned from his seat in the Legislature in 1919 to provide a seat for the Attorney-General. Since his appointment as Police Magistrate on August 17, 1921, Mr. Hellyer had received \$209 in fees and a total of \$1,780 for his services. He had also been paid \$680 for his services as a member of the Public Service Commission. He was now retained on a straight salary basis of \$1,500 a year.

Hon. Beniah Bowman stated that the Government had not decided whether or not it would complete the road to Bon Echo Inn this year. This is the highway the building of which was investigated on complaint of Merrill Dennison.