

PROFIT ON LIQUOR 20 PER CENT. NET

Attorney-General Deems It Inadvisable to Quote Wholesale Prices

QUERIES IN LEGISLATURE

Answering a question of M. M. MacBride (Independent Labor, South Brant) as to the respective wholesale prices paid by the Government for the several brands of liquor in Government dispensaries in the various years since 1919, the Attorney-General replied as follows: "It is not deemed in the public interest to give this information. It may be stated, however, that the prices charged to the public are fixed so that the Government receives as near as possible a gross profit of 33 per cent. and a net profit of 20 per cent."

Total of \$1,010,174.92 in Stock.

Joseph McNamara (Independent, Riverdale) asked what was the cost price to the Government of the present stocks of liquor in the Government dispensaries, to which Mr. Raney replied: "The cost price to the Government of the stocks of alcoholic liquor in the Government dispensaries on February 28, 1923, was \$668,536.37, plus customs and excise payable of \$341,638.45, making a total cost of \$1,010,174.92."

D. M. Hogarth (Conservative, Port Arthur), asked: "Was the Attorney-General in the City of New York between September 1, 1920, and February 1, 1921?" The answer was "No."

Answering another question, Mr. Raney said that there are 56 Canadian-born persons employed as members of the Provincial Police. Three resigned during the time of General Elliott and ten during the time of the present Commissioner. Four quit voluntarily.

The Attorney-General told the Legislature, in answer to a verbal inquiry by the Conservative Leader, that he could not promise the final report of the Public Service Commission before the House rose. It would have been completed except for the Hydro-electric Inquiry Commission, he explained. The chief matter to be heard from was on the Registry Offices.

Are Paid by Day.

Mr. Ferguson asked if the other members could not make a report, but Mr. Raney said that the other legal member of the commission, Norman Sommerville, had been ill. Replying to Mr. Hay, Mr. Raney said the members of the commission were on a per diem, not a flat, rate basis of remuneration. He understood all the inquiry had been made, but the report was not yet ready. W. D. Gregory is the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

The OBSERVER IN QUEEN'S PARK



The Liberal gatherings downtown yesterday seemed to take most of the interest out of proceedings in Queen's Park. Members of all parties constantly inquired what were the results of the Liberal meetings, because the moves of parties transcend in importance any of the non-contentious legislation now before the House.

The bill of Hon. Mr. Biggs respecting motor vehicles was in committee nearly all afternoon, and most of the evening. The measure met with comparatively little opposition, though it comprises nearly seventy sections. Of course it took a long time to make much progress, as each clause was discussed separately. Mr. Biggs possesses remarkably successful methods in getting a bill through committee. He has the facts at his finger ends, answers all questions courteously, but never gives out as much information as to appear loquacious. In other words, Mr. Biggs never obstructs his own bills. It is doubtful if any bill this session has gone through committee so smoothly, though, of course, there is no practical politics in a motor vehicles bill.

Lawyers Have to Argue.

The only hitches, and they did not amount to much, occurred when the clauses relating to convictions for breaches of the law were under discussion. These clauses gave the lawyers their opportunity, of which they took the fullest advantage, as usual. Every lawyer seems to have had some peculiar case in court for which he wants provision in the new law. In any event, Mr. Biggs did not worry over the legal technicalities, leaving them to Hon. Mr. Raney, who is quite capable of wrangling with any lawyer over any legal point.

During the evening Hon. Mr. Ferguson, in illustrating the convictions for speeding, told of a trip he had with a friend up Yonge street and back last summer. On their return south a constable took their

friend was informed by the Magistrate: "Youse was goin' south when the constable seen youse," and the fine was \$5, with \$2.40 costs.

"That was one of your Magistrates," countered Mr. Raney, and the story and the retort seemed sufficient to push another clause along.

Showed Liberal Feeling.

Few Liberals were present yesterday, owing to more important party business. The significance of one event at the Liberal gatherings was not lost on the members who remained at their desks or in the lobbies. When a delegate at the meeting proposed something tending toward a rapprochement between the Liberals and the Druryites he was immediately howled down. This incident was but a reflection of the feeling among the Liberal members of the House, and showed Liberal feeling throughout the country as possibly nothing else could have done.

A real fighting attitude was demonstrated at yesterday's Liberal gatherings, which undoubtedly indicated that the elected members of that party were in close touch with their people, when they determined to contest the pending election as a political entity. It was revealed more strongly than ever yesterday that the stand taken by J. Walter Curry, K.C., in favoring the idea that U.F.O. candidates run in ridings without Liberal opposition was far from popular, and, in fact, was decidedly unpopular.

From what transpired at the Liberal meetings, and judging by what has taken place in the Legislature during the past few weeks, all chance of any arrangement, fusion or realignment between Premier Drury and any Liberals is utterly out of the question. The Liberal determination to contest all the 111 ridings in Ontario met with extraordinary approbation in Queen's Park. The party has received a new impetus, which will be more fully revealed as the campaign progresses.