

#### Revenue From Autos.

Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Public Works, supplied the information that \$7,421,000 was the total revenue for the Province during the last fiscal year for auto licenses, motor-bus licenses, franchises, and gas tax. This revenue was distributed as follows: Auto permits, \$4,440,000, approximately; truck licenses, \$950,000; franchises, \$50,900; and gas tax, \$1,974,000.

Some interesting information concerning the English-French schools in the Province was divulged by Premier Ferguson, in reply to an interrogation raised by A. Belanger (Liberal, Russell). According to the Premier, School Inspector Walsh visited and officially reported on twenty-six of these schools in the year past in the Townships of Alfred, Cambridge, Clarence, Cumberland, Gloucester, Plantagenet, Roxborough and Russell. A similar number of schools in the same districts had been visited by Inspector Lapensee. At other schools the Inspectors had been refused admission. Inspector Walsh had been paid a total of \$3,663 for salary and expenses during the year; and Inspector Lapensee, \$3,352.

#### Home Bank Trial Costs.

Attorney-General Nickle stated, in reply to J. G. Lethbridge (Progressive, Middlesex West), that \$161,000 had been spent in prosecuting the Home Bank directors; that of this D. L. McCarthy, K.C., had received \$75,000, and MatGregor Young, K.C., \$20,000.

In reply to John Carty (Progressive, Renfrew South), Mr. Nickle stated that 11 beer permits had been issued for the Riding of Dundas, and that Aaron Sweet, the member, had not expressed himself in the matter.

Hon. James Lyons told Mr. Belanger that the Spruce Falls Company had been given the right to construct a logging railway near Kapuskasing. In reply to a question by A. P. Mewhinney (Liberal, Bruce West), Hon. J. S. Martin explained that the Government, on the suggestion of the Agricultural Committee, was sending out a seed-cleaning demonstration train over Eastern Ontario for two weeks, starting March 1.

In reply to Harold Fisher (Liberal, Ottawa West), Mr. Lyons stated that \$3,562,147 had been spent under

the North and Northwestern Developments Act, \$2,825,119 being on roads, \$353,000 on bridges, and \$20,900 on buildings. In reply to Mr. Bragg, the Premier told the House that the Hydro was developing 75,000 horsepower in Northern Ontario and private companies 380,000 horsepower.

In reply to a query by W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, Mr. Nickle stated that the cost to the Province of all the by-elections necessary in 1923 upon the Cabinet Ministers seeking re-election as members was \$5,699. He stated that this did not include certain costs of travelling expenses and other amounts; that in the ordinary course of events the elections would have cost the Province \$30,000.

Questions by A. Belanger (Liberal, Russell) on immigration and colonization were answered by Hon. J. S. Martin, who explained that Premier Ferguson had conferred with the Overseas Settlement Committee when he was in London, and had informal conversations with members of the British Government. The matter had also been discussed with the Agent-General for Ontario when he was in Canada last year. A plan to bring boys to Ontario as farm apprentices was being inaugurated, said he, but it was impossible to give the exact details.

In reply to a question by W. H. Fenton (Progressive, Bruce North) as to Ministers' salaries, the Premier said that Ministers had drawn their salary of \$8,000. The Premier had drawn no salary for his portfolio as Minister of Education, nor had Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey for his position as Minister of Health.

Second reading was given to the following bills: Act to consolidate and amend the Trustees Act; the Judges' Orders Enforcement Act; the bill to amend the Devolution of Estates Act; to consolidate and amend the Justices of the Peace Act; the Crown Witnesses' Act, the Fines and Forfeitures Act and the Public Authorities Act. Mr. Nickle explained that in these four measures to amend and consolidate there were no substantial changes in the law.

Bills to amend the Vendors and Purchasers Act and the Public Lands Act, and bills respecting private detectives and the Department of Agriculture were passed in committee.