

Thursday, March 11th

In North Huron, he said, 11 beer permits had been issued; in every case to a standard hotel. John Joynt, the sitting member for the riding, had not been consulted on the issuance of the same permits.

Questions raised by Mr. Bragg regarding the Gasoline Tax Act were answered by Hon. Mr. Henry, who said that 1,758 applications for refunds from farmers had been made, and that these involved an outlay of \$19,650.

Questions of Hon. W. E. Raney concerning Government policy and intention in respect of the liquor problem were ruled "out of order" by Speaker Thompson, after an hour of informal debating, featured by extensive quoting of Parliamentary authorities and sharp clashes on legal phraseology between Mr. Raney and Attorney-General W. F. Nickle.

When first put to the Government Mr. Raney's questions were labelled "improper" by Premier Ferguson, "inasmuch," he declared at the time, "as they might be construed to be a declaration of Government policy regarding the problem of the sale of intoxicating liquors."

Questions Answer of Premier.

Holding that the Premier's answer was not within the rules of Parliamentary procedure, Mr. Raney at the time asked the Speaker to rule it "out of order." Before the House yesterday, Mr. Raney pointed out that while the Government need not answer his queries, he still had a perfect right to ask them. In support of his argument, he referred to an earlier ruling of the Speaker, who had quoted Mr. Lowther as saying that Opposition interrogation was permissible. According to Mr. Raney, Mr. Ferguson's definition of "improper" should not as a consequence be allowed.

In the discussion that ensued, Attorney-General Nickle declared that questions concerning Government policy, intent and opinion need not be answered. He challenged Mr. Raney to produce from the records of the British House of Commons a single case where a question—to which exception having been taken—was ever answered. Mr. Nickle also said that by all Parliamentary procedure the responsibility of allowing questions rested solely with the Speaker.

In ruling Mr. Raney's question "out of order," Speaker Thompson corrected the former's impression regarding his previous reference to Mr. Lowther, explaining that what Mr. Lowther had meant was that the Opposition might ask any questions of the Government, save, of course, those barred by long custom and procedure.

Seeks to Amend Act.

First reading was given by the House to a bill introduced by Hon. John S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture, which will make the corn-borer legislation of last year compulsory instead of optional. Under this measure municipalities affected by the borer must appoint inspectors who will have power under the act to order fields cleaned up in accordance with control measures advocated by the department.

Attorney-General Nickle's measure to amend the Act respecting Commissioners' Oaths was criticized by Harold Fisher, K.C., (Liberal, Ottawa) and Liberal Leader Sinclair in respect of the penalty of three months' imprisonment it provided in the case of wrongful swearing. Before it was passed through committee it was amended, with Mr. Nickle's consent, to eliminate the imprisonment provision.

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FEW PHYSICIANS ERR IN ISSUING "SCRIPS," SAYS HON. MR. NICKLE

Attorney-General States Only
One Doctor Has Been
Prosecuted Under Act

RANEY CONGRATULATES

In the Legislature yesterday Hon. W. E. Raney warmly congratulated Attorney-General W. F. Nickle for the very successful manner in which the act respecting doctors' prescriptions appears to be working out.

Since the legislation limiting physicians to 30 prescriptions per month came into force there has been, according to Mr. Nickle, but 67 infringements, with 66 different physicians involved. There has been but a single case, Mr. Nickle told the House, of a practitioner exceeding the 40 mark in a month's time, and no instance where any issuer has gone beyond 50. In addition, no doctor has exceeded the 40 mark for more than one month. But one man has been prosecuted under the act. In view of the fact that there are 4,000 doctors in the Province, Mr. Nickle considered the situation, as represented by the statistics he had given, most creditable. Hon. Mr. Raney promptly agreed, saying: "I congratulate you."

Nixon Asks Questions.

Premier Ferguson answered Hon. Mr. Nixon's questions regarding fire insurance carried by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission, stating that for the year ending Oct. 15, 1925, the property of the Commission had been insured for 12,258,000, and that premiums paid on that sum amounted to \$154,000.

Attorney-General W. F. Nickle informed Mr. Nixon that since the new beer law had come into force two Ontario breweries had been prosecuted for selling overstrength beer—one at Smith's Falls, and the other at Fort Frances.