

Replying to a question by R. F. Miller (Liberal, Haldimand) as to the administration of the Gasoline Tax Act of 1925, Hon. George S. Henry stated that no exemptions had been granted under the act during the past fiscal year; but refunds had been made to motor-boat owners, farmers, stationary engineers, pressers and cleaners, lumbermen and aviators, and that during the past fiscal year the refunds amounted to \$157,000.

There had been 2,610 applications from farmers for refunds, and refunds to this class amounted to \$30,177.

Replying to W. A. Anderson (Liberal, Peterboro' County) Hon. John S. Martin stated that the total cost to the Province of the Agricultural Inquiry Committee appointed in 1924 had been \$26,186.

#### Provincial Co-operation.

Answering a query by A. P. McWhinney (Liberal, North Bruce) in connection with Government action following the work of the committee, Mr. Martin stated that the Government had been, and is at the present time, in communication with other Provinces of the Dominion with a view to bringing about closer co-operation in the furthering of the plans of the Imperial Government for placing the products of Ontario more advantageously before the British consumer. But, said he, it was not in the public interest to make known the details in this matter.

A. Belanger (Liberal, Russell) was told that following recommendations of the Agricultural Inquiry Committee to establish a Provincial Co-operative Council, co-operative enterprise had been studied and progress was being made.

#### \$346,944 on Beverages.

In reply to J. H. Mitchell (Liberal, Southwest Simcoe) Provincial Treasurer Monteith stated that during the past fiscal year the Government had, under the Luxury Tax Act, collected on beverages \$346,944. He could not say exactly what it cost to collect this amount because inspectors' work had not been confined to collections on beverages, but to the collection of revenue generally under the act. Total expenditures for collection under the act amounted to \$23,090.

Replying to T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin) who wanted to know what companies and municipalities paid rental for use of water power and what the rentals were, Premier Ferguson explained that since the number was so great it would mean a lengthy examination of records to give the information. He offered to order this, but the question was not pressed.

#### Second Readings.

Second readings were given by the House to private bills respecting the City of Hamilton; the corporation of the Village of Forest Hill; the Town of Timmins; the Town of Kapuskasing; the City of Toronto, and the Board of Management of the House of Refuge of the Thunder Bay District.

When the proceedings opened, members added to the list of private bills with seven new measures.

# Planes Whir to Alarms, Saving Ontario's Forests

*Aerial Fire-Fighters in Patrol Machine "Falcon" Flew Eleven Hours, Transported Ten Men, 1,950 Pounds of Food, Blankets, Hose, Pumps, Canoes and Other Materials With Which to Quench Blaze in Valuable Spruce*

## MINISTER OF LANDS REPORTS ON SERVICE

"Every year," said Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, in the Legislature yesterday, "we have the same number of fools starting fires in the bush. Now, we can't control the idiot who throws a burning cigaret away, but we can spot a fire when it is still small and prevent it from spreading to township-size proportions."

How is it done? Ask the "Falcon," for instance, says Mr. Finlayson.

#### Far From Beaten Path.

On July 4, 1926, at 4 o'clock in the morning, forest patrol machine "Falcon," with Pilot Ruse, and Air Engineer Cheeseman, spotted a fire in valuable spruce timber in unsurveyed territory around Clearwater Lake, far out of the beaten path of the forest fire ranger. What happened?

Well, the "Falcon" flew direct to its base at Pine Ridge, 45 miles distant, for assistance. It flew the course 13 times that day, putting in more than 11 flying hours. To the scene of the fire it transported ten men, 1,950 pounds of food, innumerable blankets, 300 feet of hose, extra pumps, two canoes and other materials with which to prevent the spread of the conflagration.

Furthermore, Pilot Ruse also flew his "boat" to Lac Seul to bring in three extra fire-fighters. At 7 o'clock the same night the fire was out, with less than an acre of timber consumed.

#### "Planes Conquer Fires."

"This," said Mr. Finlayson, "is only one of a half-dozen stories of this kind that I might relate. Our planes, nowadays, not only spot fires, but they conquer them."

Ontario according to figures supplied by the Minister, spends approximately \$1,000,000 yearly on her forest fire protection.

Is it worth it?

Well, in 1926, there were 106,000 less acres of timber destroyed by fire than there were in 1925, although the Province reported 1,105 fires—only 50 fewer than the previous year.

There's a reason for that, unquestionably.

"And the 'Falcon,' for instance, can tell you," says Mr. Finlayson.

## Speaker Chastizes Legislators For Violating Rules of Conduct

Members of the Ontario Legislature had their attention drawn yesterday to violations of rules of conduct of the House.

During the debate several breaches occurred, with new members chiefly being the principals. On those occasions the Speaker refrained from embarrassing the neophytes. Yesterday, in a few chosen words, he diplomatically set things right.

He noted that certain members had, in the course of discussion, referred to their fellows by name. This, said he, was a direct violation of the rules, as each legislator must be addressed "the honorable member for—and then the riding he represents."

Further, said he, there had been a series of interruptions, during addresses, which were not in order. A member, said he, was entitled to ask a question "But then," he added, "he must resume his seat and it is optional with the speaker to make answer or not."

Members, he emphasized, could not retort with a statement when his question was answered.

Premier Ferguson pointed out that a member could speak to correct a misunderstanding of a statement.

"I hope," said the Speaker, summing up his sketch of the rules, "that these violations will not occur again."