

Friday, April 1st

# LIQUOR CONTROL ACT PROVIDED HIGH LIGHT OF HOUSE SESSIONS

Announcement of Personnel of Board Held Greatest Interest for Public

## OTHER IMPORTANT ACTS

Of all the legislation put through the Legislature during the 59-day session which ended last night, the new Liquor Control Act was of paramount interest in so far as the general public was concerned. This, too, notwithstanding the fact that the Government, by various amendments to existing law, lived up to its election promises of reduced municipal income tax, and abolition of amusement tax on a certain class of entertainment ticket.

The Liquor Control Act, to which Royal assent has already been given by his Honor Lieutenant-Governor Ross, and which now requires only proclamation to make it operative, held the spotlight of the House for several weeks, and in that respect commanded at least a week more of debate and consideration than either the Speech from the Throne or the Budget.

### Featured Legislation.

While this year's session ran within a day or so of the length of the 1926 session, considerably more legislation of a drastic type was put through than during the sitting of the preceding year. Featured legislation includes Hon. William Finlayson's reforestation bill, Hon. John S. Martin's Fruit and Vegetables Consignment Act, Hon. George S. Henry's Act (not to be proclaimed this year) Regulating the Operation of Public Commercial Vehicles, and Mr. Finlayson's Provincial Parks Amendment Act.

The House's sitting was always in a state of "speeding up." Premier Ferguson, prior to the opening of the session, predicted its finish before April 1. That prediction has been lived up to. The operations of the Committees on Agriculture, Fish and Game and Private Bills were never delayed unnecessarily.

Work of the session was also expedited in that there was no investigation of Public Accounts; the Committee on Municipal Law met only a few times; and the Committees on Railways, Elections and Privileges, and Legal Bills but once each.

### High Light of Session.

The most dramatic moment of the session, either inside the Legislative Chamber or out, was supplied by Premier Ferguson when he announced the personnel of his Liquor Control Commission. Not even the long-looked-for introduction of the Control Bill itself could compare, in point of interest and enthusiasm, with the circumstances under which the Prime Minister revealed to the House and to the public at large the identity of the three men who will administer the law that replaces the Ontario Temperance Act on the Statute Books of the Province.

Friday, April 1st

# POULTRYMEN WEARY OF CHICKEN THIEVES

Minister of Agriculture Is Aware of "Serious Situation"

The "serious situation" faced by the poultrymen of the Province as the result of the activity of chicken thieves was emphasized in the Legislature today by Hon. John S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Martin stated that he had a volume of correspondence detailing thefts in various parts of the Province. In the vicinity of Kemptville, there had been 27 individual cases of thieving, 700 birds valued at between \$1,500 and \$1,800 having been stolen. In only five of these cases had the thieves been apprehended.

"This is getting to the point that we have to do something," said he.

Hon. W. E. Raney suggested that a circular letter be sent out to Crown Attorneys and Police Magistrates.

"That has already been done," said Mr. Martin.

The Minister continued to say that a deputation had visited Ottawa to see if there could be some special application of the Criminal Code to the situation. The delegation had seen the Deputy Minister of Justice, but had not got a "hearty reception."

According to the Consolidated Municipal Act of 1922, said Mr. Martin, County Councils were empowered to license persons purchasing fowl, and to compel such persons to keep books and report to county officials. He thought Kent County had acted in this matter.

While the Minister said his department had the situation under consideration, he did not forecast any action.