

ONTARIO TREASURER SKETCHES BENEFITS OF SUCCESSION BILL

Forecasts Freer Flow of
Capital, Abolition of Multi-
ple Taxation

RECIPROCAL LEGISLATION

Stating that the Government's amendment to the Succession Duty Act would, if enacted, bring about extensive financial benefits for Ontario, Hon. Dr. Monteith, Provincial Treasurer, delineated the proposals of the amendment when the bill came before the House in committee yesterday afternoon.

He forecast that under this legislation the benefit accruing to the Province would be as follows:

"Removal of restrictions on the free flow of capital into the Province; saving of money to the taxpayer in expenses of administering estates; facilitating quick transfer of assets, thereby allowing the executor to take advantage of market conditions; the abolition of multiple taxation by more than one jurisdiction on the same assets; increased revenue from incorporation of new companies in Ontario; increased revenue from transfers of stock."

Such benefits, said he, would be the result chiefly of the amendment's aim to avoid duplication in taxation.

A subject that had been frequently discussed in past years by Provinces and States was the element in the system of inheritance taxation, found in general practice, whereby personal property, not only of residents of the Province or State, but of non-residents, was taxed.

Taxation Duplication.

This, it was felt, meant wide duplication of the taxation of such intangible personal property as stocks and bonds, and interfered with the free flow of capital. Trust companies had advised clients with large sums to invest to avoid investments in places where they were liable to multiple inheritance taxation.

A suggested solution for the situation was reciprocal legislation to have all stocks and bonds taxed only at the place of domicile of the deceased.

Little Cut in Revenue.

The Provincial Treasurer felt that the legislation would not mean any tangible reduction in the Province's revenue from taxation, and, on the other hand, it was "going to turn the eyes of those States toward Ontario."

Following the Minister's statement, the committee passed the bill with but a minor change, to clarify the intent of one subsection. The eagle eye of Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell) spotted some confusion in the wording of a clause, and the Government adopted his suggestion and straightened it out.

Three Bills Introduced For Hamilton and London

Three bills, all to amend the Municipal Act, were introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon. They were brought in by private members, two of them pertaining to Hamilton, one to London. The Hamilton bills have to do with restricted areas, and the providing of the legislation necessary for municipal extension work. The London bill has to do with the providing of funds for the entertainment of distinguished visitors.

NO HASTY JUDGMENT ON ASSESSMENT ACT

Deputation Protesting Proposed Amendments Is Re-assured by Premier

Premier Ferguson yesterday assured a deputation of Toronto and Hamilton civic officials which waited on him and Attorney-General Price to protest against some of the amendments to the Assessment Act proposed this session that the legislation would not be put through until all points had been satisfactorily settled.

Experts at Work.

"We have had experts working on this from time to time," said the Prime Minister, "and we don't want to be attacking it constantly. We want to get an act that will give general satisfaction. We want to have a sane, sound system of assessment, and that is vital to our Province. What we are trying to do is to find the best thing that can be done—and then stick to that."

"Unworkable" was the definition given by the deputation to certain amendments proposed.

Assistant City Solicitor Colquhoun, Toronto, claimed that the provision for the return of the tax collector's rolls within 30 days was "physically impossible." Also impossible, he said, was the proposal to add the arrears of taxes to the rolls.

"There were," he said, "1,500 parcels of land up for sale of taxes last time. We have to search the titles, and only 300 of them were sold. We find that it takes time to search titles."

From City Solicitor Waddell of Hamilton the claim was advanced that taxing of business income tax would just mean the doubling of the assessment on industries, and would prove a hardship, already anticipated by the manufacturers. In answer to Premier Ferguson, he expressed the view that the whole thing was "rural machinery applied to urban centres."

Says Public Opposed.

Finance Commissioner Ross criticized the suggestion for collecting arrears of taxes, saying that the general public was opposed to bailiffs' methods of collection. His opinion, with others, was that the present act had worked well since its inception and that it was best to leave it alone.

The deputation consisted of the Mayor and Board of Control of Toronto, Assistant City Clerk James Somers, Finance Commissioner G. H. Ross, Assessment Commissioner Forman, Board of Control of Hamilton, City Solicitor Waddell, Assistant Commissioner Roberts of Hamilton, and representatives of the C.M.A. of Hamilton.

Criticism by Member Answered by Belanger

W. G. Martin, Conservative M.P.P. for Brantford, was taken to task yesterday afternoon by Aurelien Belanger, Liberal member for Prescott.

Mr. Belanger corrected the Brantford member's impression of a statement he had made on the bilingual question.

Mr. Martin had criticized the Liberal member on the grounds that he had said English immigrants were infected with the virus of communism. Yesterday Mr. Belanger protested. He had not, said he, classified English immigrants as Communists. "What I did say," he declared, "was that the French-Canadian citizen of Ontario was better assimilated to the requirements of Ontario than those immigrants—not the class, but those infected with the virus of communism."

\$500,000 SET ASIDE FOR BUYING LIQUOR

Questions Answered in House
—Seven Families Moved
to North

The Ontario Government set aside \$500,000 out of consolidated revenue for the purchase of liquor and for other purposes of the Liquor Control Board.

This the House was told yesterday afternoon, when Ministers took the occasion to answer five of the questions filed by the Opposition. The members were given the following information:

Twenty-three People.

Seven heads of families, that comprised twenty-three people in all, have been moved to Northern Ontario under the settler-transfer scheme of the Lands and Forests Department.

The Queenston-Chippawa Hydro-Electric power development is not completed yet, though it is complete so far as the units at the plant are concerned. Others may be added from time to time. The total expenditure thereon up to Oct. 31, 1927, has been \$76,101,000. A total of 550,000 horsepower is produced.

In the last issue of The Ontario Gazette 1,350 copies were published. The number printed varies according to requirements. The cost of publication in the last fiscal year was \$6,534, while the revenue was \$19,200.

MacBride's Duties.

M. M. MacBride is a traffic supervisor on the Provincial highways system. His duty is to co-operate with municipal authorities in connection with the administration of the Highway Traffic Act and to further the adoption of traffic regulations as sponsored by the Department. His salary is \$3,000 a year.