

Feb. 20

EXCESSIVE CHARGES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES CLAIMED

North Bruce Member Urges Reasonable Limit of Fees

HOLOGRAPH MADE LEGAL

That present laws permit excessive charges by solicitors and executors for services in administering estates, was the declaration of F. W. Elliott (Liberal, Bruce North), during discussion of the Legislature yesterday of Attorney-General Price's bill to make uniform the act respecting wills.

Mr. Elliott urged that more reasonable limits should be placed on the fees chargeable for administrative services. In an estate valued at \$20,000 the work of administration might be only three or four hours, but present regulations allowed fees up to \$1,000.

"The House should incorporate in this bill a reasonable limit of fees for administration in order to protect the survivors," said Mr. Elliott.

In explaining the bill, which was given second reading, Attorney-General Price stated that like the bill to make uniform the act respecting book debts, it had been sent on by the Conference on Uniformity of Canadian Legislation.

The two main changes in the law contained in the bill relate to a "holograph" will in the handwriting of the testator and the rights of an illegitimate child under the will of a mother.

A new section provides that a holograph will may be made without any requirement as to the presence of or attestation by witnesses. The other new section provides that every illegitimate child of a woman shall be entitled to take under a testamentary gift the same benefit he would have been entitled to if legitimate, unless a contrary intention appears by the will.

After he had explained these and other changes that would promote uniformity in the law in the various Provinces, the Attorney-General was questioned by Wilfrid Heighington (Conservative, Toronto-St. David) as to how far the Government was prepared to go in the policy of uniformity. "Many members of the legal profession," he said, "are anxious to know how far the Government is willing to go in altering our Ontario body of law which has grown up through years for the sake of uniformity." The British North America Act, Mr. Heighington continued, had recognized diversity in local conditions and interests. Section 37 of the bill, he felt, might embarrass Judges trying cases under its terms. This section provides that "the act shall be so interpreted and construed as to effect its general purpose of making uniform the law of those Provinces which enact it."

Attorney-General Price conceded that this was a far-reaching provision. It would be wise to have that and other changes very thoroughly discussed. He repeated that it was revised and approved by the conference on uniformity of legislation. "If we can meet the other Provinces, I think we should," he added.

FARM COMMITTEE ENDORSES GRANTS FOR SEED CLEANING

Fifty Farmers Required to Support Application for Plant

INQUIRY BEGINS TODAY

The Agriculture and Colonization Committee of the Legislature, in its first meeting of the present session yesterday, endorsed the joint proposal of the Ontario and Dominion Governments to supply grants to encourage the erection and operation of power seed-cleaning plants in Ontario, but only after Mark Vaughan (Conservative, Welland) had urged a resolution asking legislation to compel all farmers "to put nothing else but pure seed into their drills."

Speaking from his thirty years' experience as a seed merchant, Mr. Vaughan lamented the stiff grading regulations under which the merchant had, he said, to carry on business, and stated that if the whole purpose of the seed-cleaning plant proposal, shortly to be made effective in Ontario, was to raise better crops, then the farmer who "owed some obligation to himself, surely," should be forced to see that the seed he planted was solely "graded stuff."

"If we could get every farmer in this Province to clean his stuff first, in his own fanning mill, or elsewhere," said Mr. Vaughan, "we would be growing grain in our fields, and not part-weed crops."

Mr. Vaughan did succeed, however, in getting Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, to consent to an amending of the pending seed-plant grant regulations so as to require 50 bona-fide farmers residing in a district, instead of 25 as originally stated, to support the application for the seed-cleaning machinery, which is part of the Government's proposition. A further move on his part to have the 50 farmers "contract" to support their cleaning mill was frowned down by the committee.

The committee, on the suggestion of Colonel Kennedy, adopted the policy advocated by Liberal House Leader William E. N. Sinclair in his debate address of last Tuesday, and will function for the balance of this session as an inquiry committee, taking evidence with regard to farming conditions throughout Ontario and preparing a stenographic report of the same for presentation, along with the usual report, to the House as a whole.

A select committee will be named today to plan the main committee's program for the session and to select the representation, from Eastern and Western Ontario, which will be heard as witnesses on Thursday, Feb. 26, in a general, wide-open discussion of the dairying industry and its many problems.

Edgar Jamieson (Conservative, South-west Simcoe) was the unanimous choice of the committee as its Chairman for the sessional deliberations.

NEW LIFE INSURANCE ISSUED IN PROVINCE TOTALS HALF-BILLION

Superintendent of Insurance Releases Annual Report

According to the annual report of R. Leighton Foster, Superintendent of Insurance, which was released for publication at Queen's Park yesterday, new life insurance business issued in Ontario during 1929 amounted to \$493,000,000, an increase of approximately 11 per cent. over 1928. Total business in force in the Province at the close of 1929 was \$2,542,528,235.

The amount of mortuary certificates in force at the end of 1929 was \$108,506,054, which represents a decrease of more than \$12,500,000, of which approximately \$10,500,000 was business of the Oddfellows' Relief Association, which was reincorporated during the year as a mutual life insurance company.

Net premiums written by the 104 companies licensed to write automobile insurance during the year amounted to over \$8,000,000, which is an increase of 32.5 per cent. over the previous year. Net premiums earned increased by approximately the same percentage. Losses incurred amounted to \$4,313,383, which is an increase of about 20 per cent. over 1928.

NIPIGON VILLAGERS ASSURED OF WORK

Jackpine Limit Sale Obviates Need of Government Assistance

With the sale yesterday to D. A. Clarke, Port Arthur operator, of a jackpine and pulpwood limit on the Osamin River, in the Thunder Bay District, the Department of Lands and Forests, under Hon. William Finlayson, not only provides, indirectly, three months' employment to 100 men of the Village of Nipigon, but obviates any need for that village to appeal to the Henry Government for direct assistance under the Dominion-Provincial relief scheme.

The limit in question is some four square miles in size. Provisions under which it has been sold—one of the very few timber sales made by the Government in the past year—require operations to be commenced immediately, the timber taken off to be hauled to Osamin, and there manufactured into use in a mill which the Clarke Company, under further agreement, will build for the purpose. The jackpine-cut will be converted into ties to fill a contract for the Canadian National Railways at Osamin.

Nipigon Village is one of the few Head-of-the-Lakes places that entered no appeal for relief aid this year, and it is due, Queen's Park stated, to the fact that the cutting of 10,000 cords of pulpwood by the Clarke people under a local employment arrangement did away with the necessity of appealing to the Government. With this scheme completed, the timber people put in a bid for the Osamin limit as a means of extending the employment arrangement, and the Lands and Forests Department has now accepted their offer. Employment of seventy-five men is compelled by sale terms, but as previously stated, 100 will be hired.