

Mar. 15

House Committee To Ask Questions About Expenses

Premier Henry Admits Possible "Inaccuracy" in His Explanation About Being Approach- ed Concerning Missing Aird Documents and Says He Is Not Sure of the Date, But It Was Probably After Com- mission Session Was Started

Public Accounts Committee of the Ontario Legislature will meet tomorrow morning for purposes of organization, and will assemble again on Friday for the business, primarily, of inquiring into the payment by the Government of \$712.15 to Hogg & Hogg, and of \$49.65 to E. Bayly, presumably the Deputy Attorney-General of the Province.

The items, which are listed in the Public Accounts under the head of "General Litigation," and as having to do with "Beauharnois Investigation," are defined as "legal services" in the first instance, and as "travelling expenses" in the second.

Wants Investigation.

W. E. N. Sinclair, Opposition Leader, mentioned the two items in the House yesterday before the orders of the day were called, and expressed the belief that the committee should be called to investigate. Premier Henry was quite agreed that the committee be summoned, and acquiesced in the Wednesday and Friday meetings proposed by the Liberal Leader.

Mr. Sinclair's move followed a pointed interrogation of the Prime Minister on the action he had taken following his being approached by an individual with an offer of the missing Aird files on the Madawaska purchase. Mr. Henry replied that he may have been "inaccurate" when he made his first statement in the House regarding the matter, and claimed that the very day he had been approached with the proposition he had conferred with the Attorney-General, who, in turn, had communicated with the Commission. This had not taken place, however, he said, until after the Commission had sat.

Questions to Premier.

Mr. Sinclair's interrogation was phrased as follows:

"The Premier made a statement in the House on Friday regarding the missing file of John Aird Jr. He intimated that he had knowledge of the existence of the file about the time the Commission was appointed. The date of the receipt of this information, the date of its communication to the Attorney-General, and the date of its communication to Mr. Tilley, counsel for the Commission, are important in view of the wide publicity given to the Prime Minister's statement. I would like to know from the Government:

"1. What was the date upon which the Premier was approached by the individual asking if the Government was interested in the missing file?

"2. What was the date upon which the Premier brought this matter to the attention of the Attorney-General? Was it by letter or verbal communication?

"3. What was the date upon which the Attorney-General notified Mr. Tilley of the rumors about the missing file? Was it by letter or verbal communication?"

Not Sure of Date.

The Prime Minister's answer was, in part:

"I have had no one speak to me personally in regard to it, as to what the papers were, until after the sitting of the Commission. I am not sure of the date, but I think that the individual must have spoken to the Attorney-General on the same day, because I spoke to the Attorney-General on the same day I was approached and he already had heard of it, and he communicated the information to Mr. Tilley. I have no doubt that counsel would have brought the whole matter to the attention of the Commissioner had he not been ill and had the Commission been sitting."

ALL DOMESTIC WINE NOW UNDER NEW TAX

Provincial Treasurer An-
nounces Amendment to
New Budget

MAKERS WERE OPPOSED

The new liquor tax will be amended so as to apply to all domestic wines, wherever they are legally sold, it was announced yesterday by Hon. Edward A. Dunlop, Provincial Treasurer, after the views in the matter of the Wine Manufacturers' Association had been put before him by E. F. Singer, Conservative member for Toronto-St. Andrew's, and T. J. Jutten, the Conservative member for Hamilton Centre.

That the tax would be especially hard on the small producer, and would likely have the effect of driving him out of business, was stressed by the two Conservative members. It was announced in the Budget speech by Mr. Dunlop that the 25 cents a gallon tax on wines would be effective only when the wines were sold in wineries and wine stores; this phrasing excepted products vended at the stores of the Liquor Control Board.

The tax on the new thirteen-ounce bottles of rye whiskey will be five cents; that on large bottles of imported or domestic distilled liquors will be ten cents. These taxes will be made by means of stamps.

SINCLAIR DIRECTS FIRE AT SUCCESSION BILL

Often Impossible to Fix Size
of Estate in Six
Months

"I don't blame the profession for getting hot under the collar, and, indeed, all over, after sitting in a stuffy cubbyhole on a hot afternoon trying to work out probate." W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader in the Legislature, yesterday condoned with Ontario's solicitors, when he expressed his lack of sympathy with Hon. E. A. Dunlop's bill to amend the Succession Duty Act, which underwent its second reading.

The thought that the bill was "going a long way" was given by Mr. Sinclair, who declared that, while the provision calling for the payment of duties within six months after a death might make for a good Budget, it would weaken your position next year, when you may be thinking of going to the country.

Mr. Sinclair also pointed out that it was often impossible to gain any true idea of the size of an estate, particularly in the case of large interests being left, within six months. He mentioned, too, that the bill apparently included, under its terms, estates now being probated. "Go to it, and may you go on irritating people," was Mr. Sinclair's benediction.

After receiving second reading the enabling resolution went through Committee of the Whole stage.