

Exemption Provided For 25-Cent Ticket In Tax Amendment

Levy May Be Lifted by
Order-in-Council — But
No Promise Made Yet,
Provincial Treas-
urer Explains

SINCLAIR AND NIXON OPPOSE CHANGE

Although a new amendment to the Amusement Tax Act, presented to the Legislature last night, provides that tickets costing 25 cents may be exempt from taxation, by order of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, Provincial Treasurer E. A. Dunlop pointed out in the House that no promises were made as yet in this regard.

The announcement of the amendment, which had not yet been printed, caused D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey) to exclaim: "I am much pleased to hear this promise that tickets of 25 cents will be exempt." His enthusiasm was no sooner alight than damped by the pronouncement of Mr. Dunlop that no promise had been made as yet, and that the terms of the amendment were purely discretionary.

Announcement Urged.

Mr. Dunlop was strongly urged both by the Liberal and Progressive Leaders, W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., and Hon. Harry C. Nixon, to consider the matter overnight, and then to announce today in committee that the 25-cent tickets would be exempt from tax.

The introduction of the bill drew a protest from Mr. Nixon, who stated that it was not printed. He was told, however, by Mr. Henry that the bills were now ready for distribution, and on learning this stated that he was prepared for the matter to be discussed.

Mr. Dunlop announced that if it were proved that 50 per cent. of the price of the tickets for charitable and philanthropic entertainments were devoted to these purposes, the amount of the tax upon those tickets would be refunded. He added that if people holding these entertainments had been unduly optimistic as to the receipts, or had misjudged the cost of the entertainment itself, it was almost certain that exemption would be granted.

The comment was made by Mr. Taylor, waving a sheaf of telegrams, and having reference to the Corporation Act, that if Mr. Dunlop continued to bring in taxes all the time, he would help some of the corporations he was taxing. These telegrams, he went on, all expressed opposition to the increase of the maximum tax to 50 cents from 25 cents. "They have no objection to the tax as it is," he said, "but there is a general feeling that on the lower-priced tickets coming under the tax there should be no increase. When

you get above 50-cent tickets, into the higher forms of entertainment, there is no reason why the tax should not be increased."

"This bill is the best evidence of the absolute poverty of the Government," asserted Mr. Sinclair. "How my honorable friend the Treasurer is going to get back to exempt the twenty-five cent tickets I don't know. Surely the Government is not going to abrogate legislation which the Legislature passes. Now is the time for him to say in Committee that he is going to give exemptions." He urged Mr. Dunlop to "consider the thing overnight and do more than smile across the house and say, 'We may possibly do something tomorrow.'"

The bill then went through its second reading.

Sessional Indemnity Reduced by \$100 From Usual \$2,000

Cut Will Be Applied to
Last Cheques Received
by Ontario M.P.P.'s —
Civil Service Plan Is
Followed

NEW OIL TAX IS ANNOUNCED

Members of the Ontario Legislature are only going to be paid \$1,900 for their attendance at this session of the Legislature instead of the \$2,000 indemnity that has prevailed for a good many years. Notice to this effect has already gone forward from the office of the Prime Minister and the reduction will be applied to the last sessional cheques received by the M.P.P.'s.

Ever since the Provincial House got under way in February there has been considerable speculation regarding the forecast indemnity slash. At first a 10 per cent. cut, or \$200, was mooted, but during the past week this gave way to the \$100 idea now going into effect—due, chiefly, it is understood, to Opposition ultimatums that if more than \$100 were to be taken from the indemnity, a resolution would be brought before the House demanding a further curtailment in Cabinet Ministers' salaries.

The course of action the Government will pursue with regard to the indemnity cuts will be similar to that taken in connection with the Civil Service deductions. In other words, they will just help themselves to the money. It was generally believed that legislation would be introduced to cover the situation, but this is unnecessary, the Prime Minister told The Globe last night.

In the closing hours of last night's sitting, Provincial Treasurer Edward A. Dunlop gave notice of an entirely new piece of tax legislation, providing for a levy of one-half cent on every gallon of fuel oil consumed in the Province of Ontario. From this levy the Treasury expects additional revenue approximating \$250,000.

Mr. Dunlop also served notice that the proposed new tax on native wines has been reduced to 10 cents per gallon, instead of 25 cents, as actually budgetted, and will apply to all domestic wines whether sold from liquor stores or wineries.