

STIFF FINE AND JAIL TO FACE THROWERS OF STENCH BOMBS

Attorney - General Explains
Bill to Check Theatre
Offenses

INCOME TAX MEASURE

Providing stiff penalties for any one convicted of throwing stench bombs into theatres, or being found in or around such buildings with such bombs in their possession, a bill to amend the Theatres and Cinematographs Act was given second reading in the Legislature yesterday, after Attorney-General W. H. Price had explained the recent epidemic of offenses of this nature. Penalties of fines not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000 and one year's imprisonment, with an additional nine months in case of failure to pay the fine, are set out in the legislation.

"Some Sort of a Fight."

"I am asking for the second reading of this bill because during the past year there has been considerable disturbance in theatres. Stench bombs have been thrown in them and in other public buildings. The department and municipal authorities have tried to cope with it, but there seems to be some sort of a fight going on among the theatres," explained Colonel Price. "We all remember jokes that we played in our school days, when cayenne pepper was probably the most far-reaching thing used. But this is very serious, and might create a riot. If people think there is some trouble or a fire they might jam the exits.

"Consequently we thought some action should be taken. At first it was considered that an amendment to the Criminal Code was necessary, but then it was found that an amendment to this act would cover it. The penalties are fairly drastic, but they are thought necessary." The second reading was given without discussion.

Head Offices Defined.

Second reading was given to a City of Toronto bill sponsored by George Oakley (Conservative, Riverdale) which would set out what should constitute head offices of corporations for the purposes of income tax, although

Hon. William Finlayson suggested that the city should be asked if the legislation was really urgent.

At present the incomes are assessed against incorporated companies where the head office is, but there has been some trouble with fixing the place. The bill, which is an amendment to the Assessment Act, would stipulate that the income would be assessed where the chief place of business of the company is, regardless of where the head office is. Of course, it only affects companies operating in Ontario.

Mr. Oakley pointed out that there had been cases where the head offices had been moved out of one municipality into another to escape the tax. "We have been trying to limit the amendments to the Assessment and Municipal Acts," said Mr. Finlayson. "The House will remember the case of one mining company moving its head office out to where the manager had his country home. But I think the Mining Act would cover a case like that. I would suggest that Mr. Oakley take it up with the city to see if there is any pressing need for this pending a general consolidation of the act."

Restaurant Not Affected.

Another City of Toronto bill, which would prohibit restaurants and other eating places to go in restricted districts, was also given second reading. Mr. Sinclair, Liberal House Leader, jocularly asked if this would affect the Parliamentary restaurant, but was informed that the bill would not prohibit its operation.

Other bills to get their second reading included one to amend the Registration of Nurses Act. Hon. J. M. Robb, Minister of Health, explained that the University of Toronto was now giving a complete course in nursing, and the graduates of this course would be graduates of the university rather than of a hospital, and consequently could not qualify for their R.N. degree. This bill will enable them to do so.

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Progressive Leader—Would they have a course in practical training?

Dr. Robb—Yes, with the Toronto General Hospital. The theoretical course would be at the university.

Limit Fire Regulations.

A bill to amend the Fire Marshal's Act of last year was also advanced one stage further. The legislation of last year gave the Fire Marshal power to pass regulations affecting dry cleaning and dry dyeing plants. The act seemed to conflict with powers of health departments over such places, and the new bill will avoid conflict, limiting regulations which may be passed by Fire Marshals to matters of fire hazard.

Bills confirming the appointment of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation as trustee of the Algoma Steel Corporation; changing of the basis of valuation of insurance contracts taken over from the Odd-fellows' Relief Association by the Mutual Relief Life Insurance Company, and debentures and tax sales of the Township of Teck were also given second reading.

First readings were given to the bills introduced by W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal House Leader, to amend the Public Schools Act to raise the age of admission from five to six years; to amend the Adolescent School Attendance Act to reduce the age to which boys and girls must go to school from 16 to 15, and to amend the High Schools Act to allow a higher fee for "repeaters" in secondary schools.