

DIVORCE COLLUSION TO BE SCRUTINIZED BY SPECIAL OFFICIAL

Government May Have "Watching Brief" at Court Cases

REBUKES FROM BENCH

Sinclair Bill to Stop Litigants Wandering to Other Courts Is Acceptable

To eliminate abuses in Ontario divorce procedure, the Government will introduce important legislation during the present session of the Provincial House. Chief targets of this legislation will be collusion, perjury and the professional correspondence racket.

Attorney-General W. H. Price yesterday confirmed that general revision of the divorce procedure is contemplated. He added that the Government looks sympathetically upon the amendment proposed by W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C. (Liberal, Ontario South) and probably will incorporate it in its broader legislation. Mr. Sinclair's specific objection to the present system is that divorce proceedings can and, as a result, the rural districts are litigants wishing to escape publicity, and, as a result, the rural district is saddled with extra expense. The Town of Whitby, in Mr. Sinclair's riding, is a case in point. The amendment he proposes would require the plaintiff to start action in the district of which he is a resident.

It is understood that the legislation contemplated by the Government includes appointment of the equivalent of a King's Proctor, who acts in English divorce cases. This official, appointed permanently, or else briefed temporarily by the Attorney-General's Department, would attend all cases and watch them and later for attempts to defeat the law. If evidence of collusion came to light, he could recommend annulment of the proceedings at any time during the next six months, between granting of the decree nisi and the decree absolute.

Frequent comments from the Bench, heard since divorce was made a matter for the Ontario courts, rather than the Senate, have revealed judicial belief that collusion is the rule rather than the exception in uncontested actions.

It is claimed that evidence is fabricated in numerous cases, and that professional correspondents, using a variety of aliases, appear regularly as part of the stage-setting when false evidence is prepared. Through supervision by a "proctor," it is claimed, many of these abuses could be eliminated.

MANY QUESTIONS ANSWERED IN HOUSE

Bill Not Received for Legal Opinion on Last Loan

T. & N. O. COSTS GIVEN

Answers to a series of questions during the Legislative session at Queen's Park yesterday included the information that the Government has paid nothing for legal opinion on the last loan, but Premier Henry added: "The bill has not been rendered." The query which had been presented by F. R. Oliver (U.F.O., Grey South) in regard to the legal opinion given by E. G. Long, K.C., included a clause inquiring whether any financial responsibility rested on Mr. Long if the courts should hold such opinion incorrect. To this the Premier answered: "It is not considered advisable to offer opinions on hypothetical legal questions in the House."

Twelve million one hundred and thirty-one thousand four hundred and eighty-two dollars and fifty-eight cents represented the total cost of the T.N.O. from Cochrane to Moosonee, including 207 miles of railway and necessary equipment, the town site of Moosonee, and \$1,394,716 expended on the bridge and fill at Moose River, the Premier stated in answer to another question.

Hon. William Finlayson confirmed the report of the resignation of Ralph S. Carman, Superintendent of Rondeau Park. The resignation, which was voluntary, will be accepted, and Mr. Carman will be transferred to the Forestry Branch, the Minister said. In answer to another query, Mr. Finlayson said that food, in addition to blankets, stoves and utensils, was supplied to the men in the Rondeau Park camps by R. St. Clair Henderson, Walkerville, at 60 cents per day per man.

All meats and vegetables are bought from local farmers and dealers. The supplying of food was not let by tender, Mr. Finlayson said.

A third of an acre of land was purchased from Mr. S. G. Kitchen for the sum of \$5,000, the Premier explained, and this cost covered the purchase of the right of way through the Jackson Wagon Works, and other expenses. The bridge on Highway No. 3, west of Blenheim, was built by a contract to the amount of \$15,368; the contract was let to Hadleys, Chatham, Limited, and the total cost of bridge and approach, including property and land, was \$40,194.

The cost of the new barn and stables on the farm at the Ontario Hospital at Orillia was analyzed by the Premier. The total cost for the project, which was allotted by public tenders, was \$37,140.20; the contract for an equipped dairy barn for 72 head of cattle was let for \$29,300; for two silos, \$3,900, and for electrical work, \$1,490. The contracts were awarded to: M. H. Braden, E. Webb & Son, and Ritchie & Mould. The value of the barn which was destroyed by fire was set at \$17,000.

NO LIQUOR AGENTS, SAYS GOVERNMENT

Orders for Scotch Whiskey Sent Direct, House Is Told

The Ontario Government expressed the policy of the Liquor Control Board toward the Scotch whiskey trade in information presented yesterday by the Provincial Secretary, Hon. George H. Challies, in the Legislature. In answer to a query involving representatives and commissions, the Government stated: "The Liquor Control Board of Ontario does not deal with any agent and pays no commission to any agent, nor has it any knowledge of any commission paid. Purchase orders for Scotch whiskey are always sent direct to the actual producer and payment is made likewise."

The Government declined to answer another query asking gross sales and total costs of the liquor stores in Woodstock, Brantford and Paris. "It is not considered in the public interest to divulge the amount of sales or expenses by individual stores," Mr. Challies stated. All answers referred to conditions during "the last fiscal year."

The answer divulged a long list of firms and individuals in Scotland from whom the Liquor Control Board bought whiskey and other supplies "during the last fiscal year."

Another answer to an Opposition question revealed in some measure how brewers' warehouses are operated. Warehouses can be established by brewers anywhere in the Province, provided approval of the Liquor Control Board is obtained. A fee is charged, and the board exercises supervision over the warehouse operation, through inspectors in each store. There are 102 warehouses in Ontario.

To the question whether the breweries pay fees to licensees to have their brands sold, it was explained that a warehouseman, under contract with the breweries' joint marketing corporation collects a service charge on each package, and returns the rest to the brewery, less 5 per cent., which goes to the Liquor Board.

To further questions the Government disclaimed knowledge of who owned warehouses, but gave the following list of operators: Toronto, George Hardy; Ottawa, J. J. Slattery; London, A. Parsons; Windsor, C. Johnson; Hamilton, Brewers' Warehousing Company; St. Catharines, J. J. Doyle; Niagara Falls, E. Fraser; Brantford, C. Harker; Chatham, E. Massey; St. Thomas, C. Butler; Sault Ste. Marie, H. Camirand; Sudbury, G. Delongchamps; North Bay, N. S. Macdonald; Fort William and Port Arthur, W. J. Aikens; Oshawa, E. Donald; Brockville, E. L. Weatherhead; East Windsor, C. Johnson.