

K.C. Appointments Show Discrepancy

The number of annual appointments to the dignity of King's Counsel has varied widely since the end of the last century. Information tabled at yesterday's legislative session, in answer to a House order moved by W. E. N. Sinclair (Liberal, Ontario South), showed that twice the annual appointments have totalled practically 200, while on other occasions five years have elapsed without an appointment.

In 1899, 58 lawyers were raised to the honor of what was then Queen's Counsel. Fifty-four were named in 1902 and in 1910, 24 were appointed in 1929, 22 in 1930, and 41 in 1931. Only one man received the honor in 1909, two in 1916, and three in 1915, but in 1921, 150 received their patents; in 1908, 193 were honored, and in 1928 206 became King's Counsel.

TOBACCO COMMITTEE RECONVENES TODAY

Brief From Growing Counties' Representatives to Be Received

Study of Western Ontario's tobacco overproduction—or maldistribution, as the growers prefer to think it—began at the Legislative Buildings yesterday with organization of a special sub-committee under the chairmanship of Austin B. Smith, Conservative member for Essex South. The committee decided to reconvene today and receive a brief from representatives of the big growing country from Norfolk to Essex Counties. On the one hand, thousands of pounds of tobacco are in farmers' barns with no demand in sight, and on the other hand last year's crop sold at a rate which is claimed to be far below cost. Ultimate action of the committee will be to report its findings to the mass-buying committee at Ottawa.

INQUIRY ENDORSED BY DR. M'QUIBBAN

Would Extend Nesbitt's Proposal to Highway Contracts

Hearty endorsement of A. Russell Nesbitt's demand for investigation of bulk-contract abuses came yesterday from Dr. George A. McQuibban, Leader of the Liberal Party in the Ontario Legislature. Further, Dr. McQuibban suggested that the investigation be not confined to the building industry, but extended to cover highway construction.

The Liberal ch'efstain suspected that the same conditions cited in the Legislature by Mr. Nesbitt prevailed in roadwork through the Province. A spread, he believed, existed between bulk and subcontracts, and it was in the public interest that further light be shed on the matter. Progressive Leader Harry Nixon will join Dr. McQuibban in the demand for the inquiry.

With Premier Henry understood to be sympathetic toward Mr. Nesbitt's request, it is probable that action will be taken for a construction industry investigation before the session is over.

Dogs Lose Right to First Bite Of Sheep Under Kennedy Bill

Dogs in unorganized districts of the Province lose their ancient common-law privilege of their first bite under an amendment to the Dog Tax and Sheep Protection Act, which yesterday received first reading in the Legislature. The bill, introduced by Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Agriculture Minister, extends to sheep-owners in the outlying parts of the Province the same rights of recovering damages now enjoyed in organized municipalities. It will be unnecessary for them, in collecting from dog-owners, to prove that the dog in question habitually worried sheep.

Another of Colonel Kennedy's bills

that received first reading was an amendment to the Community Halls Act. By its provisions municipalities will require the Minister's consent if they wish to sell a community hall or athletic field which the Government has helped them to establish. Under the present law, the municipalities can dispose of the hall or field immediately on its completion.

From private members came two proposed amendments to the Assessment Act. W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C. (Liberal, Ontario South), proposes that municipalities be permitted to offer parcels of land in tax sales rather than be required to put up the entire list of seized properties. J. E. Jamieson (Conservative, Simcoe Southwest) would exempt small farms within town and village limits from assessment for certain local improvement taxes. Clifford Case, North York Conservative, sponsored a bill increasing townships' control over hawkers and peddlers, and this, too, received first reading.