

Court to Determine Exact Legal Rights Of Separate School

Premier Henry Announces That Series of Questions Will Be Submitted to Ascertain Firmer Ground on Which Settlement Can Be Based

TEXT OF QUERIES TO BE DISCLOSED

Rights of Separate School Boards to a greater share in school taxes will be decided by the highest courts, since "the Government have had difficulty in finding a basis on which a larger share of school taxes may be paid which would not take into account the question of legal rights." Just before the Legislature session closed yesterday, Premier Henry made the important announcement that a series of questions on the subject would be submitted for judicial ruling.

Premier Henry's statement follows:

"I wish to announce to the House the decision of the Government respecting the taxation of companies in support of Roman Catholic separate schools. This question is not new, and has been under discussion during many years, but more recently the Government has had the advantage of considering formal statements of claims, and counter-claims, put forward respectively by the supporters of separate schools and the friends of public schools. There has also been wide discussion of the subject on the public platform and in the press. From this evidence one fact stands out quite clearly, namely, a definite divergence of view upon what are the legal rights of separate schools and public schools under the present division of school taxation. The Government has given careful consideration to the argument of separate school supporters that, apart from the legal aspect, they are entitled to a larger share than falls to them under existing laws. But the Government has had difficulty in finding a basis on which a larger share of school taxes may be paid which would not take into account the question of legal rights. It is desirable that an authoritative declaration of the legal rights of the parties should be secured as soon as possible. With this object the Government has decided to submit to the highest courts, in accordance with the law governing such procedure, a series of questions to determine finally the ground on which a settlement could be based. This mode avoids any lengthy litigation, and the questions which are now being drawn up will be made public at an early date."

GOVERNMENT FINDS LIQUOR EL DORADO

McQuibban Says Finance Padding Claims Are Vindicated

OPEN BOTTLING PLANT?

Argument by Dr. George A. McQuibban, Liberal House Leader, that the Government had been unduly withdrawing funds from the Liquor Board, reached the Legislature yesterday afternoon, with the claim that the Treasury had "found an El Dorado" to diminish its deficits and increase its surpluses.

Reviewing Liquor Board finances for 1932 and 1933, Dr. McQuibban observed that the Liquor Board had established a surplus in the early years of its operation, but subsequently the Government had "taken that and a good deal more." Alleging padding of Provincial financial showings, the Opposition Leader said: "I've demonstrated to the Legislature and to the Province at large that the allegations I made are vindicated, and that the Government did not present a true statement so far as Liquor Board withdrawals are concerned."

In reply, Attorney-General Price repeated the statements he had made to Wednesday's committee meeting, stating that the Government was entitled to all Liquor Board funds, and, if the cash dropped so low that goods on the shelves constituted the sole assets, a loan could always be arranged from the banks.

S. C. Tweed (Liberal, Waterloo North) asked about the bottling plant which, he said, had at one time been planned in Ontario. The Quebec Board had liquor profits, the Liberal member said, could be explained by its practice of making wholesale importations and bottling the liquor locally. He had even heard, Mr. Tweed said, that some Ontario liquor came through these Quebec channels leaving some profit in the hands of the Quebec Board. To this the Attorney-General offered an absolute denial, but he did not answer the query about the fate of the proposed bottling plant.

The committee report was carried.

HOUSE CONGRATULATES MATTHEW CURREY

Matthew Currey, for thirty-four years private secretary to the Attorney-Generals of Ontario and for sixty years, since his appointment in the days of Sir Oliver Mowat, a Provincial civil servant, was congratulated in a formal resolution passed by the Ontario Legislature yesterday that was coupled with a clause providing that "there be paid to Matthew Currey the sum of \$1,000 as an honorarium on his retirement from the civil service."

"If there is anything that a Province can be proud of, it is the faithful service of a civil servant throughout many years," Hon. W. H. Price, mover of the resolution, stated. Dr. George McQuibban, Liberal House Leader, and Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, associated themselves with the motion, the latter testifying that he had received equally civil and courteous treatment from Mr. Currey when a member of an Administration and when in Opposition.