

Free Motor Rides to Be At Risk of Passenger

McQuesten's Bill Before Legislature Will Remove Responsibility for Injuries From Car Owners

OWNERS and drivers of motor cars will no longer be responsible for the safety of "gratuitous" passengers should an accident take place, under a bill to amend the Highway Traffic Act introduced yesterday in the Ontario Legislature by Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways.

It is understood that the amendment is the answer of the department to insurance companies' plans to double the passenger liability insurance rates in the Toronto area on April 1. It is anticipated that a further rate revision is possible if this clause of the bill is adopted.

Another major change in the act is that after July, 1936, all motor vehicles must be equipped with "safety glass."

Wider powers will be given to police officers to inspect motor vehicles as to their condition, and it is proposed to force motor-vehicle operators to carry flares in case of night emergencies. The

bill also provides that bicycles shall have a white strip painted on the rear mudguard.

All persons in the garage business will be obliged to report all cars in their care which appear to have been in an accident, and all open-air parking lots are to be licensed in the same manner as garages.

An amendment to the Highways Improvement Act empowers the department to tag all revenues under the act for the highways improvement fund, and the measure also validates the proposal to take the burden of provincial highway costs from coun-

Lack of Property "No Bar to Office"

Roebuck Holds Material Wealth Not Necessary for J.P.

Any suggestion that a man, because he is devoid of material wealth, is unable to bring to a judicial position qualities of honesty, fairness and sound judgment, springs from "a by-gone and forgotten age," was the opinion of Attorney-General Arthur W. Roebuck, in the Ontario Legislature yesterday, in countering opposition to his proposal that, in future, property holdings shall not be a necessary qualification for the position of Justice of the Peace.

The Attorney-General's statement was prompted by the expressed opinion of W. A. Baird (Conservative, High Park) that Justice of the Peace should have some standing in the community as far as property holdings were concerned.

"A citizen," declared Mr. Roebuck, "can run for the high office of Mayor of Toronto, if he is merely a tenant of property."

Colonel W. H. Price (Conservative, Parkdale), admitted that moral qualifications were of the greater importance in such appointments. At the same time he strongly urged that great care be taken by the Attorney-General in the appointment of Justices of the Peace.

"PEEVED" OVER RADIO TALK

Heighington Takes Sly Slap at Roebuck

Wilfrid Heighington is still "peev- ed" about Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck's radio speeches.

To the Ontario House he suggested yesterday that the preamble to bills should hereafter read as follows:

"Therefore his Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, and with the alleged approval of the ladies and gentlemen of the Attorney-General's radio audience, enacts as follows:

Between the chuckles of his fellow legislators, Mr. Heighington enlarged on his subject with an exposition of the place of lawyers in the scheme of things.

The matter was brought up while the House passed the "Loftus Reid" bill through committee.

Both Sides of House Applaud Sinclair

While both sides thumped their desks and Premier Hepburn shot him a cheery grin, W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., made his first address of the session at yesterday's sitting at Queen's Park.

The member for Ontario took five minutes to pilot one of his famous legal bills through second reading—in this case an amendment clarifying a section of the Jurors Act.

Gardhouse Denies Being at "Party"

W. J. ("Bill") Gardhouse was not at the "Sunday suds party." The Liberal member for York West rose to a point of privilege with a glance at the Hon. Leopold Macaulay, and told the Ontario Legislature yesterday that he had not attended the Franceschini picnic.

"Like my honorable friend for York East (former Premier Henry), I happened to be at church that day with my wife and family," he said.