

OPTOMETRISTS TO BE GOVERNED UNDER NEW LAW

A new optometry bill providing for a board appointed "at pleasure" was brought in to the Legislature last night while the act to repeal the Optometry Act awaited passage through committee.

The new bill gives a new board the power to pass regulations, but states that such regulations may be amended or repealed at any time by Order-in-Council.

The power to suspend or revoke licenses will now extend only to persons who have been convicted of offences involving fraud in the practice of optometry. Also abolished are the old powers to hold inquiries with the authority of a Commission.

Offences under the act are in the main set out to prevent any fraudulent use of the term "optometrist" or "optician," and to penalize anyone wrongfully representing himself as an optometrist.

Soldier Members Represent Ontario

PREMIER HEPBURN promised Wilfrid Heighington yesterday that the Government will designate all M.P.P.-veterans, regardless of politics, as Government representatives at the Vimy Pilgrimage.

"I hope," he added, with a nod at the Tory M.P.P. and war captain, "that the honorable member goes, because nothing could give me greater pleasure than to confer that distinction on a gallant soldier and honorable gentleman."

STANDARDS ACT MAY BE CHANGED

Minister May Draw Up Schedules

Welfare-Labor Minister David Croll indicated he is maintaining and revising the Industrial Standards Act when he introduced amendments in the Legislature yesterday. The basic principle of the act, voluntary set-ups of standards in industries desiring them, is continued, but there is a modification of administration.

The most important amendments are in sections 5 and 6 of the bill. Formerly, conferences between employers and employees formulated schedules of hours and wages, which subsequently received Cabinet approval. Hereafter, the conferences will forward recommendations to the Minister and he is empowered to formulate the schedule on the strength of these recommendations. The effort is being made to have schedules adapted to conditions peculiar to any industry and any zone. The schedules now can cover many points which caused criticism at recent sessions of the Labor Committee of the Legislature, such as the problem of the one-man contractor.

Definitions are strengthened, so that the act may cover employers and employees who hitherto have been able to escape its terms on technical grounds. The power of defining and redefining zones is revised to clarify the respective authority of Minister and conference.

Other sections are designed to prevent occurrence of intervals between lapse of an agreement and its renewal; to permit advisory boards of each trade to set special rates for handicapped workers; to vest in the Minimum Wage Board authority over all prosecutions and to provide penalties for second and third offenses.

L.C.A. CHANGES ARE OUTLINED

Three Amendments Ex- plained by Premier

The Liquor Control Act amendments were explained to the Legislature last night by Premier Hepburn and allowed to stand for debate when Colonel W. H. Price would be present.

The Premier explained he was amending the act to permit all Provincial voters to petition; to eliminate references to the C.T.A. in consistency with the appeal against that act; and to give the authority-holders the same protection against a sudden closing because of a plebiscite which is now granted to liquor stores closed under the same circumstances.

The Premier took pride in a Toronto statement approving of the clauses of the bill which puts Wards 7 and 9 out of a plebiscite and out of any changes in Toronto's wet or dry status. His Administration, he said, had not allowed liquor stores and beverage rooms in these areas and did not intend to do so.

"If we allowed them to vote, and Toronto remained wet, there would be some doubt about their status."

HEAVY FORFEIT FACES KENNEDY

Tory ex-Member Shown to Have Contract

The Ontario Legislature Public Accounts Committee, investigating the purchases by the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway yesterday, continued its inquiry into purchases from A. J. Kennedy, former Conservative member of the Legislature for Timiskaming.

Kennedy, who sat in the Legislature from June, 1923, to May, 1934, was shown to have sold ties to the railway to the value of \$126,170 from 1927 to 1930.

Attorney-General Roebuck read into the record Section 10 of the Legislative Assembly Act, which ruled that no person who had a contract with a Government department under which he received public money was eligible to sit and vote as a member of the Legislature.

The Attorney-General also submitted a Supreme Court ruling that the railway was a department of the Government. The penalty under the act was forfeiture of \$2,000 a day for every day that an offending member sat or voted in the Legislature.

Evidence taken during the past three days showed that Mr. Kennedy, in 1927-28, sold to the Commission 61,487 ties, for \$42,756; in 1928-29, 104,275 ties, for \$78,739; and in 1929-30, 6,154 ties, for \$4,675. Out of the Railway Commission's files were taken letters, written on Government stationery, in which Mr. Kennedy discussed contract matters.

In evidence submitted Thursday, it was stated that in the 1927-28 contract the Commission rebated to Mr. Kennedy \$1,644 in payment in full of the sales tax due on the transaction. It was left in the evidence that the sales tax rebate was made to Mr. Kennedy alone.

G. B. Alford, railway purchasing agent, in the stand yesterday, emphasized sales tax rebate in that year was made to all contractors, and not to Mr. Kennedy alone. He stated it was the practice, prior to 1926-27, for the Commission to pay the sales tax on all tie contracts. In that year, he said, an effort was made to place payment responsibility on the vendors. He said that the Commission again paid the tax in 1927-28, but that in the next year's contracts, the Commission clamped down on the payments.

Mr. Alford reiterated Thursday's evidence that in the 1928-29 contract the Commission rebated \$1,000 to Mr. Kennedy as part payment of his sales tax, but that none of the other contractors received such a concession. He declared that early in the year there was a controversy over the payment of the tax between Mr. Kennedy and the Commission.

"He appeared before the Commission," said the witness. "There was an adjustment. I am not conversant with what occurred, but there was a settlement of \$1,000."

The total sales tax on the year's contract amounted to \$3,165, he said, and Mr. Kennedy was held liable for the payment of the balance.

Evidence that Mr. Kennedy had not received special consideration in 1927-28 over the other contractors, was brought out in cross-examination by Hon. W. H. Price, Conservative, Parkdale.