

February 18.

# De Luxe 1927 Edition Of Ontario Statutes Cost Citizens \$11,662

This Year's Revision Will Be Done Without Commissioners or \$1,000 Accounts for Cigars, Roebuck Promises Legislature

## REVIEWS 1914 FIGURES

Attorney-General Roebuck revealed to the Legislature yesterday that the famous "Bible-paper," or limited, de luxe edition of the 1927 Revised Statutes of Ontario, which was prepared and published under the direction of the former Ferguson Administration, had cost the taxpayers of the Province \$11,662.

There were only 500 copies printed, he said. Of this number, 95 copies had been sold, at a revenue to the Crown of \$2,255. And 362 copies, he said, had been "given away" by the Government "to its friends" and members of the Legislature.

The Revised Statutes of that year, he added, had cost \$129,000. While the printing costs, considering the number of copies issued, were not excessively large, the honoraria paid the Commissioners in charge of the revision, amounting to \$60,000, was "entirely too much for this sort of work," said Mr. Roebuck.

Delving further into the past, Mr. Roebuck produced certified figures of the Provincial Auditor to show that the Statutes revision of 1914, which had taken ten Commissioners eight years to complete, had cost Ontario \$275,000 in public moneys. Of this amount, \$107,000 went as honoraria to the Commissioners. They also spent, he said, \$6,019 on luncheons, \$1,056 on cigars, \$519 on newspapers, and \$676 on cab hire.

The records were disclosed when the Attorney-General moved second reading to his bill providing for the 1937 Statutes' revision. There would be no de luxe editions of this revision, he said. There would be no Commissioners on the job. There would be no honoraria. "And no smoke-screen from \$1,000 worth of cigars," he added. The work would be done, he said, by regular employees of the legal staff of the Parliament Buildings, with Eric Silk, Chief Law Clerk, and he alone, responsible to the Government for the completeness and accuracy of the work.

"We don't need ten Commissioners to do this work," said he. The cost of the finished job would be trivial compared with cost of similar work of other years, he added.