

356 Fur Seizures Net Ontario \$57,408 in Sales and Fines

The Provincial Treasury has benefitted by \$57,408 as a result of the seizure of furs under the Game and Fisheries enactments during 1939 and 1940, according to the answer to a question made in the Legislature by W. J. Stewart, Conservative, Parkdale. Altogether there were 356 seizures during that period and the furs seized were sold for \$36,474. Fines collected in connection with the seizures totalled \$20,934.

In answer to another query it was stated that the comfort stations erected at Port Burwell, on Lake Erie, in Elgin County, had cost the Province \$5,144.63. T. A. Murphy, Toronto Beaches, was informed that the station had been erected at the request of the Township of Bayham, but that no similar station has been erected elsewhere in the Province. The land was secured without cost, but the building was erected for \$3,648.60 and the plumbing and furnishings added another \$1,496.03 to the cost. No caretaker or staff is employed.

Preferred Insurance For Safe Drivers Urged

Preferred insurance rates to drivers of known good driving habits as an alternative to compulsory insurance yesterday was advocated in the Legislature by Leopold Macaulay (Cons., South York), in debate on the second reading of his bill to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

While Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, indicated that he was not wholly in favor of the proposal, he did suggest that drivers with high accident records should be placed in a high premium category. At the same time, he announced that he would call an insurance conference directly after the House rises to "see if we can make it less burdensome for people to get insurance."

By Mr. Macaulay's bill any person who is convicted under Highway Traffic Act and Criminal Code sections of the Traffic Act, will be dispossessed of his license until he files financial responsibility whether or not there was either property damage or personal injury caused by the act for which he was convicted. Under the present law, either property damage or personal injury must be present before a driver is required to take out insurance before his license is restored.

"The purpose is to run the uninsured driver off the road before he

injures some one or causes damage," said Mr. Macaulay. Both Attorney-General Conant and Mr. McQuesten said they would not oppose the extension of financial responsibility.

The latter asserted that "one of the things we should do is require the insurance companies to be less severe in granting insurance." He claimed that instead of a refusal to grant insurance, increased rates for individual cases should be sufficient to handle the situation.

Mr. Macaulay said the Highways Minister, under a section not invoked, could release the driving records of the public to the insurance companies and that they in turn could bring in a merit system of insurance, that is, preferred rates to drivers of known good driving habits.

"If it isn't done," he said, "I know what will happen. We know compulsory insurance is not the best thing, but we will be forced to it by public opinion. Those who have accidents regularly should pay the higher premium."

"But the moment we bring a driver's record to the attention of an insurance company, they cancel his insurance," objected Mr. McQuesten. "I say if it comes to a point as bad as that, we had better take away the man's license."

The bill was given second reading.