

Five-Year Gasoline Tax Reaches \$100,009,046

Slightly over \$100,000,000 was collected by the Province in gasoline taxes for the five fiscal years ending March 31, 1940, according to a reply handed down in the Legislature yesterday to a question by Hon. Leopold Macaulay (Con., York South). Starting with an income of \$16,001,013 for the year ending March 31, 1936, the amount steadily grew until last year it was \$27,428,149. Total for the five years was \$100,009,046.

Hon. George S. Henry (Con., York East) was informed that the 74.15 miles of the Queen Elizabeth Way, from the west limits of Toronto to the north limits of Niagara Falls, has cost \$13,247,054.86 to date. Slightly over two million dollars was used to purchase property, \$2,461,547.15 for bridges and other large structures, while small structures, grading, drainage, lighting and paving cost \$8,662,105.33.

In reply to W. D. Black (Con., Addington) it was stated that F. A. O'Connor, former director of purchasing in the Department of Health, was requested to resign because his services were no longer required. His salary was \$5,000 per year, but he received no superannuation or leave of absence. No successor has been appointed and J. G. Morrison is now doing the work formerly done by Mr. O'Connor.

According to an answer given Hon. T. L. Kennedy (Con., Peel) there are approximately 54,778 acres of mining land in the Province under lease, and another 883,120 acres are staked but not patented. During the last fiscal year some 815,956 acres were patented, while 8,397 claims were cancelled during the year for failure to perform work, non-renewal of licenses, or because of no applications for patents.

DIVISION COURT CHANGES ASKED

A reduction in the number of Division Courts and restrictions on the travelling of judges to Division Courts are provided in an amendment to the Division Courts Act, introduced before the Legislature yesterday by Attorney-General Conant.

Generally, the amendments move in the direction of meeting recommendations of the Legislature's administration of Justice Committee, said the Attorney-General, and are designed also to meet the situation arising from a Federal order that, after April 1, the travelling expenses of judges will no longer be paid by the Dominion.

The bill limits the travelling of judges to their own counties unless permission is gained in advance or circumstances, like the illness of a neighboring judge, arise. The bill also enables Queen's Park to pass regulation requiring a Division Court clerk to notify a judge in event no cases are listed for the sitting.

Asks Conant Probe Samaritan's Fine

Investigation by Attorney-General Conant of the conviction and \$20 fine imposed by Magistrate J. E. McIlveen upon a Mimico truck owner because he hauled a neighbor's furniture without a moving license, was requested yesterday in the Legislature by Col. T. L. Kennedy, Cons., Peel.

The defendant, said Colonel Kennedy, pleaded that he did it "as a neighborly act" and because his neighbor was "up against it."

"We neighbors in the country help each other, and if this man is to be victimized for hauling this furniture when he was helping a neighbor, then I think it is time the act should be changed," said the Peel member.

Lure of Hockey Delays Debate In Legislature

The lure of the Stanley Cup series proved stronger than budget debate attractions in the Legislature yesterday when, by agreement of the House, the night session slated for Tuesday was deferred until Wednesday.

Premier Hepburn announced the Tuesday night session directly after the House opened and revealed that Hon. George S. Henry, whose addresses more often than not provide excitement, as well as interest, would lead the speakers' parade. Mr. Henry, however, pointed out that many members undoubtedly would wish to attend the hockey game.

Before adjournment, the Premier announced that the party Whips had held a conference, and, as a result, the night session would be deferred. A second night session will be held Thursday when, it is planned, the budget debate will be concluded.