

SEEK TIGHTER SABOTAGE LAW

Would Give Fire Marshal
Wider Power Under Act

CAN PROBE BLASTS

Amendments to the Fire Marshal's Act, designed to tighten protective laws against sabotage and fire and explosion dangers, was introduced by Attorney-General Conant yesterday in the Legislature in the Statute Law Amendment Act.

It is ruled in the legislation that no person shall erect or establish an oil refinery, or plant for the manufacture of explosives or chemicals of an inflammable or explosive nature, without the written consent of the Fire Marshal.

It is stressed that approval must be given with regard to the topography of the district, the types of construction and the occupancy of buildings and lands in the district.

A second amendment removes doubt as to the right of the Fire Marshal to investigate the cause and circumstances of any explosion or of any conditions which, in the opinion of the Minister, might have caused loss of life or property.

Arising from recommendations by Fire Marshal William Scott in his investigation of the Avonmore Hotel fire on Jarvis Street last spring, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is authorized to make regulations regarding the construction, alteration, fire prevention and fire protection equipment and facilities in hotels.

LIBERAL URGES LARGER GRANTS

Formation of a standing committee on education in the Ontario Legislature was indicated last night when C. M. MacFie (Lib., Middlesex) revealed in a Budget debate address that Hon. Duncan McArthur, Minister of Education, had declared his support to the proposal.

Mr. MacFie, a farmer and one-time school teacher, coupled with the proposal a plea for increased grants to universities. He believed the University of Western Ontario at London should have \$300,000 rather than \$265,000. "The university is the key to all training," he said, "and the public and secondary schools depend upon it for their existence."

May Waive \$5 Marriage Fee For Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen

Hon. Harry Nixon, who, as Minister of Fish and Game, recently passed an order waiving fishing licenses to members of the Active Service Forces from outside Ontario, yesterday as Provincial Secretary asked the Legislature to waive the \$5 marriage license fee for non-resident soldiers, sailors and airmen. This non-resident fee is over and above the regular license.

The proposed amendment is contained in the Statute Law Amendment Act, sponsored by Attorney-General Conant.

A second amendment affecting the armed forces is one which extends the provisions of the Soldiers' Aid Commission Act to permit the commission to grant assistance to persons who are serving or have served in the present war.

Provincial Secretary Nixon has a further amendment in the bill, one

to the Training Schools Act, which provides a penalty for aiding a child to escape from a foster home and for harboring or concealing a child who has escaped from a training school.

The amendment is designed particularly, it is understood, to take care of escapes from the training schools for girls at Galt. Girls frequently escape to Toronto, according to the department, apparently to places known to them, and, under present legislation, there is no power to prosecute persons who harbor them.

The act contains also an amendment to the Succession Duty Act by which property is exempted from duty when it passes upon death for religious, charitable and educational purposes in any other Province which allows a similar exemption where the purpose is carried out in Ontario.

Could Have Purchased Planes, Fixed Old Forts Instead—Drew

Canada's defense forces could have been bolstered by forty-eight modern fighting planes with the money spent by the Dominion and Provincial Governments in the restoration of Fort Henry, Kingston, and the fort at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Conservative Leader Drew charged last night in the Legislature. At a time "when we were told we could not afford to spend money on defense" those expenditures were made, he said.

His charge arose from criticism of a half-million expenditure at Fort Henry and of the Province's \$193,300.35 share on the Niagara project. At the time they were reconstructed the R.C.A.F. had as its fastest fighters three out-moded 150-mile-per-hour Siskins, said Colonel Drew.

Colonel Drew said the expenditure of \$386,000 on the Niagara fort, "an interesting little fort and well worth preserving," was a disgrace.

"That figure includes considerably

more than the fort," said Hon. T. B. McQuesten, chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission, in whose lands the fort is situated.

"A little graft," interrupted the Conservative Leader.

"Mind you, we did not have one single modern aircraft and we were told we couldn't afford to buy them, despite the threat of war," continued Colonel Drew, who estimated the total funds paid on the fort were \$1,200,000.