

March 27

TAX TRANSFER GETS APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE

Conant Would Widen Service of Summonses by Mail to Accused

The tax transfer bill and the two bills dealing with the Abitibi Power & Paper Co., Ltd., were put through committee stage and given third reading in the Legislature yesterday. No amendments were offered.

Attorney-General Conant, sponsor of the tax bill which transfers corporation and income taxes to the Dominion in return for a subsidy, was on his feet for a considerable part of the two-hour session. After seeing the tax bill through its final stages in Committee of the Whole, he guided other legislation through second reading. One bill was an amendment to the Summary Convictions Act, extending the service of summonses by mail to those issued for violations of any Provincial statute as well as municipal and other by-laws and regulations.

With very few exceptions the police officials of the Province were strong in their support of the serving of summonses by mail instead of personal service, the Attorney-General said. One case in point was that of Toronto, where Chief Constable Draper, formerly an opponent of the mail plan, was now satisfied with it.

"I is difficult to arrive at a definite figure, but it would be safe to say that the people of Ontario have been saved between \$40,000 and \$50,000 which would otherwise have been paid in personal service costs," said Mr. Conant.

Hon. H. J. Kirby, Health Minister, explained a Public Health Act amendment which, among other provisions, prohibits unlicensed fumigators soliciting fumigation contracts. Mr. Kirby said that numerous deaths had been caused as a result of house fumigations, in many instances by improperly trained fumigators. The bill gave the department some degree of control.

Another bill given second reading was an amendment to the Medical Act. It provides that a medical practitioner may be liable to have his name erased from the register in the event of his being declared, certified or found to be mentally incompetent or mentally ill.

WOULD BUILD COURT HOUSE

Conant Sees Construction as Postwar Project

Erection of a new court house in Toronto to house all the courts serving the city and the County of York was envisaged yesterday by Attorney-General Conant during second reading of the Mortgage Tax Act amendment. After considerable discussion, the bill was allowed to stand over at the request of Leopold Macaulay, Acting Opposition Leader.

The amendment provides that the tax of one-tenth of one per cent on mortgages registered in the registry or land titles office be paid direct to the Province and not to the general fund of the municipality. The money will be used for the administration of justice or applied to any deficits in the operation of the registry or land titles office.

The Attorney-General stressed that

there was no thought of building a court house at the present time, but the legislation was to encourage and make possible the building of such a structure in the postwar period. The necessity for such a court house, preferably on University Avenue near Osgoode Hall, had long been recognized, said Mr. Conant. He pointed out that the City Hall was badly overcrowded, and he felt that the city could very well use the entire City Hall now for its own municipal purposes.

J. J. Glass (Lib., St. Andrew) supported the bill, declaring that the court accommodation at the City Hall was "disgraceful."

Additional support was also forthcoming from another Toronto member, Ian Strachan (Lib., St. George), who termed the quarters of the justices of the peace at the City Hall "a Black Hole of Calcutta."

W. J. Stewart (Con., Parkdale) expressed strong opposition to the proposal, declaring that this was no time to undertake capital construction. He was reminded by Mr. Conant that it was not proposed to erect a new court house building in war-time.

G. C. Elgie (Con., Woodbine) said there was nothing in the bill to indicate a new court house would be erected. He said the question of a new building was a "sham and a farce," and that Ontario, having been "gouged" by Ottawa, was now taking it out of the city by diverting the revenue from the municipality to the Province.