

Ceremony of Only 5 Minutes Turns Taxes Over to Ottawa

The final step in validating the tax transfer bill, by which the Ontario Government steps from two major fields of taxation for the duration of the war, occurred in a five-minutes' ceremony at the Legislature yesterday, when Lieutenant-Governor Albert Matthews gave Royal Assent to the measure.

Joined with the tax transfer bill in the ceremonial action was the Abitibi legislation which extends the moratorium legislation on the

sale of the company's assets until June 30, 1943, and a measure which gives the company, in liquidation since 1932, the power to appeal a court sale order to the Privy Council.

Royal Assent had been given to the three bills six minutes after the House opened. Six civilians and one airman in the galleries saw Acting Leader H. C. Nixon escort the Lieutenant-Governor into the Chamber and the procedure which brought the legislation into force.

Evasion of Summonses By Fake Office Charged

Through a technicality in the law, a Toronto corporation with its head office at a Windsor "filling station," has succeeded for the past five months in evading serving of summonses for breaches of the Industrial Standards Act, Attorney-General Conant revealed in the Legislature yesterday.

This disclosure came during discussion in committee of an amendment to the Summary Convictions Act. Mr. Conant said a section of the amendment would permit a municipality to serve a corporation with a summons handed to any em-

ployee "apparently not under sixteen years of age." This would, in most cases, be an office boy, it was pointed out.

The Attorney-General said this particular corporation—the name was not given—had successfully evaded all servings of summonses for breach of the Provincial statute. Two of the directors were in Michigan and one in Montreal. None resided in Toronto. Inability to locate the officers of the company was responsible for failure to serve the summonses. Mr. Conant said the corporation moved its head office to Windsor, where later it was found the office was at a filling station.

"The amendment goes a long way, I admit, but I believe it to be logical," said the Attorney-General. "We cannot permit the law to be flouted in this manner."

"You might bring in the office boy and this might be questionable," said George H. Challies (Con., Grenville-Dundas).

"Why not, when they are trying to evade the act," interjected Leopold Macaulay, Acting Opposition Leader.

Other provisions in the amendment provide for extending serving by registered mail of summonses for offenses under various Ontario statutes, including the Highway Traffic Act.

A discussion took place over the question of what procedure to follow in the case of tourists caught evading the Highway Act. W. A. Summerville (Con., Riverdale), and William Duckworth (Cons., Dovercourt), felt that Ontario should follow the practice of Florida and other States and provide that a specific amount should be paid as a deposit to an officer. This amount would be returned on settlement of the case.

Mr. Conant said he was prepared to investigate this matter and to issue instructions to guide police in their dealings with tourists who violate the act.