

## To Reduce Defense Field Of Insurance Companies

The provision in the Insurance Amendment Act which permits an insurance company to set up a defense that the person injured in an accident was convicted of a criminal offense and therefore the company is not liable for anything in excess of the minimum amount of the policy held, is removed in a measure introduced in the Legislature yesterday. It was sponsored by Attorney-General Conant and given first reading.

"Under the present law if the driver of a car has an insurance policy for \$1,000, \$5,000 or \$10,000, the person injured can collect against the insurance company," explained Mr. Conant. "If, however, the coverage is for more than \$1,000, \$5,000 or \$10,000, the insurance company may set up by way of a defense that the person injured was convicted of a criminal offense and they are not liable for anything in excess of the minimum amount. This bill removes this provision so that the defense that the person liable was convicted of a criminal offense cannot be raised in any case."

Two other amendments, one to the Wills Amendment Act and the other to the Evidence Amendment Act, were introduced by the Attorney-General. The first amendment permits any member of the armed forces, mariner or seaman, to dispose of his real or personal property by a writing signed by him without any witnesses, and the will is good in the case of both real and personal property even though he is under 21 years of age. Under the present law a member of the armed forces can only will his real property by a will in the regular way with two witnesses.

The amendment to the Evidence Amendment Act permits photographic copies of bank records to be admitted as evidence. It also makes the certificate of certain military officers regarding the death of a member of the armed forces valid in a court of law.

## Wild Dogs and Wolves Are Menace to Children

Wild dog packs, like wolves, are ranging through some sections of East Hastings, Lanark and adjacent counties, giving concern to farmers for the safety of their young children and seriously threatening the entire sheep-raising industry in those districts, Dr. Harold E. Welsh (Con., Hastings East) yesterday told members of the Legislative Agriculture Committee.

Yesterday it was reported that children in the district of Ivy Lea were being conveyed to and from school by automobiles due to the presence of wolves in the vicinity. A cow was attacked on Hill Island and police and farmers are hunting the wild animals.

There are packs of the wild dogs and their near-kin, brush wolves, along the Salmon River, north and west of Deseronto and within fifteen miles of No. 2 Highway, said Dr. Welsh in telling how organized hunts have been made, with considerable success, against the sheep killers.

Only a month ago, Jack Brennan, Lonsdale farmer, ran into a den of the wolf dogs, got one adult and took seven pups, partially grown. George H. Doucett (Con., Lanark) backed his associate in stating that wild dog packs have been a menace for a number of years in his riding.

The wild dog and wolf bounty question was broached during the committee's discussion upon the need, as a war production measure, of promoting sheep raising. One of the strongest backers of this proposal was W. J. Gardhouse (Lib., York West), who stressed that Canada must bolster wool supply to counter losses from Australia. He urged sheep production as a definite program for the Department of Agriculture. Of losses by dogs, he said that the compensation provided was a fair one, adding, that at the Gardhouse farm a rifle and

shotgun are kept handy at the barn and dogs have been known to disappear mysteriously.

Agriculture Minister Dewan also warned the committee of a possible wool shortage, stating he had been advised that North America reserves have been cut to seven months' supply. Canada produced but one-fifth of her requirements, he said, although tests showed that Canadian wool had more strength and durability than any other wool in the world.

"Western Ontario conditions are different than those in our section," said Dr. Welsh. He said it was believed that the wild dogs were a cross between dogs and brush wolves—both Alsatian and collie strains being apparent in the packs.

"They are not only attacking sheep but young cattle as well. The situation is so bad that during the past year, there are twenty-five farmers, whom I could name, who have gone out of sheep because of these wild dogs," he said.

Inasmuch as there was a difficulty in collecting bounty—that is wolf bounty—on the crossed strains, the department at his request, made an investigation in the field of the situation and last year agreed that a \$10 bounty should be paid on each wolf-dog killed that could not be classified either as dog or wolf, the department to bear half the cost and the municipality half.

In color, he and Mr. Doucett agreed, the wild dog varied in color from a dark gray to ones with reddish tinges and ones showing a trace of collie yellow, including sometimes, the whiteneck ring and breast of the collie.

"When they attack sheep, they go into the flank and don't rip and tear like a killer-dog will. They seem to act more like wolves than dogs. They yip and howl like wolves and their habits are distinctly wolf," said the doctor.

## Gallant Dad of Gallant Son Is Birthday Tribute to Nixon

The fifty-first birthday of Provincial Secretary Nixon was marked in the Legislature yesterday by a brief interlude in House business which was tempered with sadness. Flying Officer Jack Nixon, his son, whose birthday also fell on April 1, was killed in action during the British bombing of Frankfurt Sept. 3 last.

Premier Hepburn rose before the orders of the day and paid tribute to his colleague, recalling that he was first elected to the Legislature twenty-three years ago.

"His son, Jack, who paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of his country, was born on the same date. Our felicitations are tempered with sadness. I am sure, however, that the gallant father of a gallant son will carry on."

Mr. Nixon thanked the Premier and the members of the House for

their kind expressions. He recalled that just one year ago his son was waiting at an eastern port to navigate a bomber to England, a feat which he accomplished successfully a short time later.

"A grand lad, indeed, he was," said Mr. Nixon, in touching briefly on his son's career in the air force.