

# The Ontario Legislature Week Ending March 26

The Liquor Control Act, with its 144 sections travelled through the Legislature in Committee of the whole rather more rapidly than expected. Three night sittings and part of Wednesday afternoon sufficed for discussion of suggestions advanced, and the Bill was reported at 11:25 Thursday evening. It now stands ready for a third reading, and will become law upon proclamation. Its progress seems largely due to the fact that Opposition leaders and members early discovered that the government had given very careful thought to every clause, and were able to give reasons for each provision and the phraseology thereof, as well as to state why alternative provisions had been left out. Questions from across the floor kept Premier Ferguson and Attorney General Price almost constantly on their feet, in explanation of the various features, but the result was to pretty well satisfy the House generally that the Bill needed very little fixing.

Amendment made, in fact, could generally be classed as minor. The first was to include cherries with grapes as an ingredient for native wine. On Wednesday there was a slight change with regard to auditing of the Board's accounts, and elimination of the phrase "to holders of permits issued under this act for purchase of liquor" from the provisions in regard to wineries. On Thursday there were some technical amendments, and the government added a clause providing for licensing of standard hotels on the present basis. Provision was also made for absolute prohibition in any section of the province in case of emergency. There was but one division in committee. Mr. Raney on Wednesday protested against the terms of the clause making staff appointments by the heard subject to approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, but his amendment giving the chief commissioner full control, and depriving the government of any check upon the size and expense of such staff was rejected.

Information which came out incidentally in the debate included an interpretation by the government that the Canada Temperance Act will not be restored automatically in Huron, Perth and Peel, until the new Bill becomes law. It is in force still, however, in Manitoulin. There was an expression of opinion by the Premier that liquor stores might be allowed to remain open until seven or eight o'clock in the evening, and Mr. Ferguson also named tentatively the salary of D. B. Hamia, Chairman of the Commission, as \$2000, with that of the two commissioners as possibly half that amount. At the opening of the debate, Mr. Ferguson declined to accept a suggestion from W. S. Haney, (Con., West Lambton) that state-owned Canadian lake passenger steamers should be regarded as the domicile of passengers, for the purposes of the Act. The government, he pointed out, felt that it would be held responsible for the success or failure of the Act, regardless of any Commission appointment, and it was therefore determined that the Act should not permit any phase of the traffic to get beyond absolute control. "It is going to be the best law we can make it," he said, "and we are going to enforce it in the best interests of the public."

Assurance that the power problem of Eastern Ontario is receiving the close attention of the government and the Legislature on Monday by Premier Ferguson, who promised a full discussion before the session closed. The 200,000 h.p. line from Chats Falls is to be constructed as soon as weather will permit. For reasons of economy, the power will be brought in one load to a central transmission station near Toronto, though it might be possible to send back some to Eastern points from a station near Oshawa. Meantime, with power needs of the east in mind, the commission was endeavoring to negotiate supplementary contracts, this power to be devoted entirely to the eastern districts.

July 1 is the probable date on which the highways department will be prepared to enforce the statute, hitherto in abeyance, requiring all motor car drivers to have permits. Hon. Mr. Henry explains that when the law comes into force any person who has driven a car for six months will be eligible to receive a permit without examination. Any person who cannot thus qualify will be required to satisfy a government examiner of his fitness to be behind a steering wheel. New car purchasers will also be examined unless they have previously

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driven and can qualify under the six months rule. The fee will probably be only fifty cents or a dollar, as this is not intended as a source of revenue, but a means of control.

Legislation will likely come down next year providing grading and packing of fruit, as a result of a decision this week in a Toronto court that the federal law is without jurisdiction in Ontario. The House has just enacted a Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act, for a similar reason, and made the federal enactment effective here beyond question. Hon. Mr. Martin, who referred to the manner in which Toronto market had been ruined for the growers by the action of hucksters "facing" open barrels of apples and being able to evade the law, which covers only sealed containers, said it was a serious situation which had to be dealt with soon, but growers and dealers would be consulted before the legislation

Amendments to the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, introduced by Hon. Lincoln Goldie on Thursday are of general interest, particularly one affecting the maintenance of the patients. The hospital authorities have been complaining that they do not recover anything like the actual cost. The new bill makes the basic indigent rate \$2 a day, which is virtually as before, but the hospital, before receiving its municipal and provincial contribution, is first required to make every effort to collect from the patient who has been treated. The hospital will then bill the county, city or separated town from which the patient came, for three quarters of the remainder of the bill. The government undertakes to pay the remaining one-quarter, but the total is not to exceed what would have been collected under the present per diem allowance of 50 cents a day for 120 days.

Substantial reduction in the gill net license fees, and promise of a closer season on herring, as concessions in Lake Erie fisheries, were announced by Hon. Charles McCrear. The industry recently sent a deputation to the minister. The new license fees, lower by 20 per cent., have already been embodied in an order-in-council for approval by the government, and the closed herring season will be similarly arranged as soon as the date shall be determined.

The township school board bill, which is before the Legislature for a third consecutive year, will again be withdrawn after discussion, Premier Ferguson, as Minister of Education, intimates. He noted a marked change of sentiment toward the measure, and said he had received many suggestions from individuals and organizations, as result of which he proposed to offer some amendments. "There is really great necessity for it," said the Prime Minister, "but I am opposed to the idea of imposing it arbitrarily, until people have an opportunity to study it thoroughly."

Proposals for compulsory licensing of hawkers, peddlers and transient traders in Ontario municipalities were given their third annual year's "hoist" by the municipal law committee of the Legislature on Wednesday. A bill sponsored by F. W. Syme, West Hamilton, contained a new scale of fees. Opponents of the measure stressed principally the hardship said to be involved upon certain interests with large investments. Hon. Dr. Carr, East Hamilton, took the consumers' side, pointing out that they were the people who needed protection, rather than the retail merchant. A feature of the proposed legislation that impressed the committee was that it left the large mail-order houses untouched. The committee was sufficiently sympathetic, however, to recommend appointment of a select committee of the House to investigate the entire problem, which transient traders represent.

In connection with education estimates on Tuesday, Premier Ferguson expressed the opinion that secondary schools of the province are not getting their fair share of

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PRESENTATION OF SHIELD TO CANADIAN TOWN

As a token of good will from the people of Acton, England, to the citizens of Acton, Ontario, a replica of the coat of arms of the English town was presented to H. P. Moore, Chief Magistrate of Acton (left) by T. A. McDonnell, Vice-President of the C. P. R. Express Company, who represented Sir Harry Brittain, M. P., of the Acton Borough.

money support, and said an effort was being made to work out some more equitable solution. He noted that Queen's University received as much in one year as the entire grant to secondary schools. He repeated his warning that Queen's and Western University that they must continue their efforts to build up an endowment and arrive at self-supporting status. In connection with research work at Toronto, he hinted at early announcement of further discoveries of importance, such as those made by Dr. Banting and Dr. Cox.

### Wanted

Three policemen to act as guards between the hours of 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. almost any morning. Duties to consist of escorting married ladies (bridge players) to their several homes. Qualifications: must be able to see in the dark, must be quick at figures so as to compute cents and losses at one-tenth of a cent a point, must be sympathetic in case of loss, must be good listeners to the post-mortems; must be able to discourse in the jargon of the bridge expert.

(Advertisement inserted by husbands of said lady bridge players.)

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### THE FARM TRACTOR

From information received by the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, from 179 tractor owners in Eastern Canada and British Columbia, it has been found that 85 per cent. of these machines are considered profitable investments for work on the land. The greatest single advantage of the tractor is that it enables the owner to keep his work up-to-date. Other advantages are reduction of hired help and horses required to operate these farms. Tractor owners were able to take advantage of these reductions when tractors were operated at least 30 to 40 days per year.

Tractors are successfully operated under greatly varying conditions, however; land operation seems inadvisable where fields are hilly, too stony or too sandy. Such conditions together with small farms, high initial cost, high cost of fuel and insufficient operators, were given as the chief reasons for tractor failure. The smallest number of cultivated acres recommended by these tractor owners on which to purchase a tractor was 100 acres.

The cost of tractor operation is made up of two major items, namely overhead and direct operating costs. The direct operating cost includes fuel, oil and wages of operator.

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10 lb. tin ..... 75c. Green Tea, special, lb. . . 55c.

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Overhead includes depreciation, interest and repairs. The overhead charges are prorated against the amount of work the tractor does annually. Two-plov tractors in the East and B. C. were used an average of 55 days per year, with the resulting low cost of \$8.68 per 10-hour day. Three-plov tractors were used 48 days per year and had a daily operating cost of \$10.22. These costs include the operator's wages at \$3.00 per day. In operation the tractor greatly increases the amount of available power. In ploughing, the small tractor will do the work of six horses, while for discing, cultivating, and harrowing it will do the work of at least four horses. The results of this survey, then, show that the tractor will frequently prove a very profitable investment, but as there are many jobs that can be done more economically with horses, the place of the tractor is to supplement horses.

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