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Genuine GAS COKE

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Beverage and Gasoline Taxes to Reduce Deficit

FERGUSON LOOKING TO BEER TRADE TO FILL COFFERS OF GOVERNMENT; THREE-CENT GASOLINE TAX STANDS

Amount of New Tax On Beverages Will Be Decided Later.

MEANS \$2,300,000

Provincial Treasurer Aims at Three Million-Dollar Deficit For 1925.

ABOLISHES ONE TAX

Removes Levy On Poolrooms and Billiards—Loss Is \$100,000.

By N. J. O'NEAL, Special to The Advertiser by a Staff Correspondent.

Toronto, March 5. — The motorist and the beer drinker are to aid the Ferguson government in its efforts to present a balanced budget in forthcoming years.

Such was the outstanding pronouncement which the budget speech of Hon. W. H. Price, provincial treasurer, brought forth in the legislature this afternoon.

During the remaining seven months of the present fiscal year the gasoline tax of 3c a gallon is expected to net the government a revenue of \$2,200,000; and a newly-imposed "beverage tax" a revenue of \$2,300,000.

Beer Tax Conceded.

How the latter levy will apply was not explained by the provincial secretary, but it is conceded that Ferguson beer is the foundation upon which it rests, and that the government is to be virtually a partner of the bartender in collecting a rake-off upon the brew which he dispenses.

With the aid of these levies, and with divers departmental economies, the treasurer hopes to report, a year hence, a deficit of only \$2,000,000, in contrast to that of \$8,500,000 which he announced last October for the fiscal year then ending.

So optimistic was Col. Price in his expectations for the future, that he definitely committed the government to an abandoning of the poolroom and billiard tax, thereby surrendering an annual revenue of \$100,000, and also forecast the possibility of other taxes now in existence being lifted next year.

It was a three-hour speech which the provincial treasurer delivered in the house yesterday.

Revenue \$46,000,000.

In support of his predictions for the current year, Col. Price estimated revenue at \$46,000,000 and expenditure at \$49,000,000 basing these figures partially upon the anticipation of a \$1,000,000 increase in revenue from succession duties.

The speaker laid strong stress upon retrenchments effected by the government in all departments "without practicing that false economy which only leaves for another day the payment of our present obligations and strangles some of the most beneficial services."

He also emphasized the uncontrollable nature of some two-thirds of the ordinary expenditures of the province and the existence of abnormal conditions which greatly increased the difficulty of saving

Fiscal Facts, Figures As Revealed In Budget

NEW TAXATION.

Three cents a gallon tax on gasoline for highways. Expected to yield this year, \$2,200,000.

Tax of unstated amount on beverages, including 4.4% beer. Expected to yield this year, \$2,300,000.

TAXES LIFTED.

Tax on pool and billiard halls removed, with estimated loss to province of \$100,000.

ESTIMATES.

	1924.	1925.
Main Estimates	\$52,546,778	\$51,298,685
Supplementary Estimates	\$16,590,383	\$ 2,187,592

Additional supplementary estimates for 1925 will be brought down during session.

DEFICITS.

	1923	1924	1925 (Estimated)
Deficit	\$15,195,226	\$ 8,488,784	\$ 3,000,000

AUDITING SYSTEM.

New collection and auditing system boosted provincial revenue \$6,000,000, revealed many flaws and leads to prosecutions.

DEFENDS LOWER RATES.

Defends lowering of interest rates of provincial saving banks.

money. He outlined plans for the establishment of a sinking fund, into which \$3,000,000 would be paid annually for the reduction of the provincial debt. That debt, gross, is \$28,500,000, of which \$174,026,618 is invested in realizable and income-producing assets. The net debt is \$18,500,000, or approximately \$93.50 per capita.

Practiced Economy.

Departmental economies had been effected wherever possible, Col. Price stated. There had been a saving of \$132,000 in printing and stationery and one of \$48,000 on advertising. The province had remarkable success, he declared, in money markets in both short and long-term financing. One-year treasury bills had been sold at a rate of 3.86 per cent.

"Municipalities of Ontario receive excellent treatment at the hands of the province, the speaker maintained, stating that the government spends \$25,000,000 annually for municipal purposes, thus relieving local taxation. He also compared Ontario's taxation situation favorably to that existing in other provinces.

The treasury department has speeded up the flow of revenue into its coffers, by "careful, competent collection," and by systematic audits of all receipts, Col. Price told the House.

System Paid.

Revenues of the province were increased by more than \$6,000,000 as a result of the collection system, the speaker declared. He touched also upon the appointment of F. Martin Turnbull as financial controller and deputy treasurer, declaring that Mr. Turnbull had been of great assistance to him; and upon other changes contemplated in the department, including the establishment of a statistical, actuarial and exchange branch.

The present practice of a financial statement on the province's standing, immediately at the end of the fiscal year on October 31, is to be continued, the minister announced.

Touching on the operations of the mothers' allowance board, the minister pointed to a remarkable reduction in administration costs. In the fiscal year 1921, this cost had been 10.05 per cent; for the fiscal year 1924, 4.34 per cent, and in January of this year, it had been cut to 3.87 per cent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Canadian Press Despatch. Toronto, March 5. — Hon. W. H. Price outlined at great length the financial situation in the province, showing a decreased deficit, but estimated a deficit of \$3,000,000 for 1925.

The treasurer declared that the revenues had been increased by over \$5,000,000, and that the expenditure had been cut in practically every department of the government during 1924.

Heads had cost Ontario \$94,000,000 in the last six years. Mr. Price told the house that only one-third of the Ontario expenditure was controllable. This year the deficit would have to be paid out of capital, but it was hoped that after this year it would be unnecessary to borrow money to cover any deficit.

The treasurer stated that the ordinary revenue for the year amounted to \$40,540,923, as compared with \$34,110,212 for the previous year, leaving a net increase of \$6,430,711.

Revenue Increases.

The increases by departments follow: Prime minister's, \$1,036,057; lands and forests, \$1,341,757; mines, \$50,345; game and fisheries, \$4,065; public highways, \$972,100; provincial treasury, \$1,956,513; provincial secretary, \$223,142; agriculture, \$137,048; labor, \$148,053; law enforcement, \$277,254; insurance department, decrease, \$157. Of the increase in the attorney-general's department, \$100,000 is from the government liquor dispensaries, and this notwithstanding the reduction in the price of liquor. Fines in 1924 were \$76,320 more than in 1923. Confiscated liquor in 1924 was \$108,596.

The ordinary expenditures of the province were \$49,305,439 for 1923 and \$49,000,888 for 1924, being a decrease of \$294,551. In 1923 the interest on the public debt amounted to \$13,510,708, which increased in 1924 to \$16,173,592.

The treasurer submitted a table showing that in every department but five there had been decreases in expenditure. The five exceptions included the public debt.

In 1924, for rural hydro bonuses

there was spent \$789,422.

Mr. Price then went into every department, showing their expenditures and revenues in detail.

From the amusement tax, etc., \$1,636,514 was collected. In the highway department, \$85,842 had been saved in salaries and expenses. Capital expenditure in 1924, excluding the public debt, was \$36,035,218, which was a decrease as compared with the previous year.

Need \$10,000,000.

Mr. Price said the revenue from gasoline tax and motor licenses might total \$9,000,000, which would not be sufficient to provide all costs of highways and a sinking fund.

To carry the road program of interest on capital investment and road maintenance and sinking fund, it would require \$10,000,000, the treasurer stated. Of this, \$4,000,000 was for interest, \$4,000,000 for maintenance, and \$2,000,000 for sinking fund.

Mr. Price said that the province had been fortunate during the last year with its borrowings and got cheap money. He pointed out that after the end of the fiscal year the province had borrowed \$3,000,000 at 3.86 per cent and \$5,000,000 at 3.95 per cent. Mr. Price said the province was in a position to keep out of the market for long-term money until it secures a good rate.

Audits in the various departments of the government service had been started with the last year of the year. He said that the auditor general, Mr. Hearst, had been brought forward to date. "Almost every audit disclosed a lack of system in nearly every direction," said the treasurer. "Some branches revealed shortages of no mean sums, and in a number of cases criminal prosecutions were necessary."

He thought the audit had paid for itself a hundred times over.

Thinks Ontario Lucky.

Mr. Price comparing Ontario with other provinces thought this province was fortunate in the matter of taxation. He pointed out that Ontario did not have a provincial income tax like some provinces. He said that British Columbia collects \$253,822 from excising things that Ontario does not touch at all. If Ontario did put these taxes into effect the revenue would be increased \$40,000,000.

Alberta, he said, collected nearly two millions by taxing things that

Ontario left free. Even Quebec collected six million on things Ontario did not tax. Mr. Price said, however, that the province would not invade the income tax field.

Ontario, on the other hand, had a land transfer tax which other provinces did not have, which was yielding \$500,000 a year. Mr. Price maintained that no province in Canada treated its municipalities so well as Ontario.

In education the treasurer said that the province had paid to municipalities \$8,000,000; for hospitals, \$5,000,000; for mothers' allowances, \$1,708,000; agriculture department, \$1,250,000. The municipalities would have had to have paid these amounts if the province had not done so.

Mr. Price said that if there were no exemptions in the amusement tax \$400,000 more could have been collected by that tax. Church, charitable and fairs were exempt. "If our amusement tax applied to the Canadian National Exhibition we could obtain an extra \$50,000," said Mr. Price. "If we taxed skating rinks we could collect \$40,000."

Fifteen Branches.

The treasurer said that the 15 savings branches in the province had deposits which with accrued interest amounted to \$22,000,000.

When the money comes to the treasury it is used primarily for the purpose of advancing money to the agricultural development board to loan to farmers. The department has allowed the savings office 5 per cent on monies deposited with the treasury. This meant that the savings offices were expected to carry their organization and general business establishment 1 per cent.

The money was loaned to farmers at 6 per cent. From the savings branches deposits, \$1,600,000 was loaned altogether, leaving \$13,700,000 with the treasury.

Mr. Price repeated the reasons given by the premier for a reduction in the interest paid at the savings banks. He said the primary reason was to give farmers loans at less interest. It was also thought advisable to establish a reserve fund. Mr. Price said that for the month of January 15 branches of the savings offices showed increases in deposits. The government was determined, he said, to provide so that no matter what happened in the future the province would not have to put its hands in its pockets to pay for losses.

Mr. Price said the province had invested in hydro, \$135,045,216; in the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario, \$30,207,934; loans to municipalities, \$24,000,000, and on all other roads, \$88,260,000. If we deduct this amount it brings our public debt almost to the vanishing point.

Seek Forty Million.

Mr. Price said that following his usual custom it was his intention shortly to bring down the annual provincial loans act, which will authorize the government to borrow \$40,000,000. He said that it would be necessary this year to spend on capital investment in account of hydro, T. & N. O. Northern Ontario development, road building and public works approximately \$40,000,000.

Mr. Price said that last year he had stated that he did not think it possible to cut down any more than \$5,000,000, and the actual saving was \$4,000,000, which was almost eaten up in uncontrollable expenditure. His estimate of revenue had been exceeded, he said, by \$2,500,000. For this year he thought lands and forests revenue would drop and motor vehicles branch do better. Race-course and amusement tax would bring less and that on the whole there would be a drop of a million in revenue this year to date. He thought the province would be doing well if it kept its ordinary expenditure next year to \$40,000,000.

"The government has announced its policy that all services must be self-sustaining, and this is one of the chief reasons for the new gasoline tax," said Mr. Price. "It is not a question of choice, but of necessity. We have estimated that for the remainder of this year it will produce \$2,200,000, and for a whole year \$3,000,000."

He stated that the province would abandon municipal fields in taxation as soon and as quickly as it could.

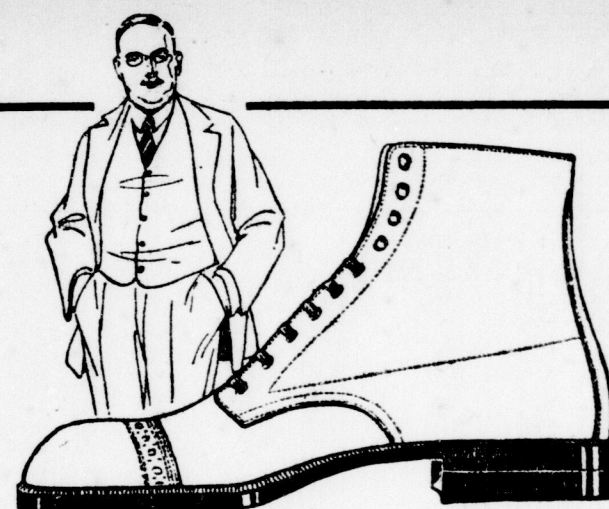
SNAPSHOTS OF A MAN ABOUT TO SNEEZE.



Bessemer Fails To Reach Port

Ice in Port Stanley Harbor To Be Dynamited.

Special to The Advertiser. St. Thomas, March 5.—Heavy ice on the north shore of Lake Erie prevented the coal ferry Bessemer from



A Real Shoe Treat For Men

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Our buyer, while in Quebec on his recent trip, made a wonderful buy of 240 pairs of Men's High-Grade Shoes from the John Ritchie Shoe Manufacturing Company of Quebec City, makers of men's shoes exclusively. These shoes were made during the dull season in order to keep the wheels of industry moving. We bought them right and pass this real bargain on to you.

These Shoes are made of Brown Brighton Calf Leather, are Blucher styles, with medium round toes, Goodyear welts, extra sole, Rubber Heels, all sizes, 6 to 11. Regular \$5.00 value. A real good-looking, good-wearing shoe. Special at

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Alberta Farmers Send Deputy To Find Them Brides In Britain

Canadian Press Despatch. Edmonton, Alta., March 5.—Unmarried farmers of the Vilna district in Alberta are beginning to weaken under the monotony of "single blessedness."

At any rate a group of bachelor farmers, with the assistance of the Vilna Citizens' League, have commissioned Thomas Jackson of Pine Knoll to visit England and Ireland this summer and bring back with him women of marriageable age that would make suitable life partners for the Vilna homesteaders.

The U. F. A. locals have endorsed the idea and prominent men and women of the district are supporting the idea, both morally and financially.

reaching Port Stanley harbor this afternoon. She cleared the ice outside Conneaut harbor about noon, but when she arrived outside Port Burwell the ice was so heavy that she was forced to return to the south shore. It is reported that dynamite will be used tomorrow morning just outside Port Stanley harbor, and that the vessel will make another attempt to open navigation across the lake.

MARTIN BURKE MATCHED TO MEET JACK DEMPSEY

Associated Press Despatch. San Francisco, Cal., March 5.—Martin Burke, New Orleans heavyweight, has been matched to meet champion Jack Dempsey, in an eastern city for the title fight within five months. Lew Diamond, Burke's manager, announced today. Diamond said his announcement was sanctioned by Jack Kearns, manager of Dempsey.



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