

134. The revenue of the Game Department for the calendar year 1930 was made up as follows:—

30,168 ordinary firearms licences at \$2.50.....	\$75,420.00
2,433 resident (British subject) big game licences at \$5.....	12,165.00
483 resident (aliens) big game licences at \$10.....	4,830.00
3,015 Trappers' licences at \$10.....	30,150.00
Non-resident licences.....	18,684.00
Fur traders' licences.....	4,625.00
Royalty or tax on furs.....	40,431.11
Big game trophy fees.....	5,575.00
Sundry licences and receipts.....	941.00
	\$192,821.11

135. The increase in the estimated revenue for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1933, is due in the main to the increase in the cost of the ordinary firearms licence from \$2.50 to \$3.50; the resident (British subject) big game licence from \$5 to \$6; the resident (alien) big game licence from \$10 to \$12; and the introduction of a resident angler's licence of \$1. We make no recommendation as to any further increases in licence fees as we fear the law of diminishing returns might operate.

136. The big game trophy fees are sums payable by a non-resident on the export from the Province of the head or hooves of big game. This year this principle is being extended to a resident of the Province who kills a deer, who will be required to have the head "tagged" at a cost of 25 cents. We recommend that the principle of trophy fees be extended to all larger wild animals shot by residents.

137. It will be observed that the royalty or tax on furs which in the calendar year 1930 amounted to \$40,431.11 is included in the ordinary revenue of the Game Department. In our view this royalty is in quite a different category to licence fees. This royalty is no different in substance to the royalty paid to the Province on minerals and timber. It is a payment to the Province for the depletion of its natural resources. We therefore recommend that this royalty be not credited to the Game Department nor treated as part of its revenue.

138. Included in the expenditures of the Game Department is an item "Game Propagation" amounting in the year ended March 31st, 1931, to \$11,760.89, and estimated to amount to \$10,709 in the current fiscal year. This represents the cost of raising pheasants at the Elk Lake Farm near Victoria. We are of opinion that the returns from this farm are wholly incommensurate with the expenditure on it. We recommend that it be discontinued and that after the budget is balanced the policy be adopted of allocating a definite sum each year for the purchase of young birds for liberation. Such a policy would encourage the rearing of young birds by gun clubs and private persons, and attain the same object at much less cost.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

139. This Department administers the "Minimum Wage Acts," "Hours of Work Act," and the "Semi-monthly Payment of Wages Act," and inspects factories. In addition, it conducts an employment service in ten offices throughout the Province, one-third of the cost of which is borne by the Dominion Government.

140. We are informed that the "Minimum Wage Acts" which were enacted before the present depression are now working a great hardship. Many people would be willing to take employment at wages lower than those authorized by these Acts but some employers are unwilling to run the risk of contravening the law. On the other hand other employers are paying lower wages than the statutory minima and the Department, recognizing the pressure of economic forces, is making no effort to enforce the Acts. In these circumstances we recommend that these Acts be temporarily repealed.

141. We recommend that the activities and duties of this Department be transferred to the Department of the Attorney-General except that the inspection of factories be transferred to the Department of Public Works which already undertakes steam-boller and electrical energy inspection.

142. In the estimates for the current year provision is made for the payment of \$10,420 for "rent, fuel, light, etc.," in respect of the employment service offices. As these offices are all in towns where there is a Government Agent's office, we fail to see why it should be necessary to rent special offices for this employment service. We therefore recommend that every effort be made to move the employment service into the Government buildings.

143. We recommend that the employment service offices now maintained at Prince George, Cranbrook, and New Westminster be discontinued.

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

144. The Board came into existence in 1921 and is, outside of its law enforcement branch, wholly a merchandising organization and as such its administration should not be beyond the powers of one man of ordinary business experience and shrewdness. But, unfortunately for those who have constituted the Board in the past, it has been subject to every conceivable form of pressure and influence from the political party for the time in power; as it was graphically put to us, the pavement from the Government Buildings to the Belmont Building (where the head office of the Board is situate) is wearing thin with the unending march of those seeking favours.

145. It is easy enough to recommend that the Board be placed entirely outside the scope of political action, but so long as party politics are allowed to operate as they have done in the past, it is practically impossible to achieve this much desired result. No one reading this report can fail to realize the baneful influence of party politics on nearly every branch of Government activity. If a cure is to be found it will not be a specific remedy for the Liquor Control Board alone; it will be a purgative for the whole body politic.

146. The Board's sales are declining rapidly, as will be seen from the following figures:—

April, 1931.....	\$958,050.75	} a decrease of 25.6 per cent.
April, 1932.....	713,056.75	
May, 1931.....	1,080,693.15	} a decrease of 33.1 per cent.
May, 1932.....	722,730.89	

The decline is due to three principal causes—

- (a.) The reduction in the people's purchasing power;
- (b.) The decline in the number of visitors from the United States;
- (c.) The increase in the Board's prices to cover the recent additions in Dominion taxes.

147. In the Budget for the current fiscal year the Government included as the amount of profit it will receive from the Board the sum of \$3,750,000, of which \$785,000 would be the share payable to the municipalities. We are of opinion that the Board's profits will be much less than this figure. It is therefore imperative that substantial economies be effected at once and we have endeavoured in the short time at our disposal to ascertain how this can be done. We have received suggestions from various concerns interested in the trade, some of which are included in the following recommendations.

148. Our conclusions and recommendations are:—

Prices—

1. We are of opinion that the Board's recent increase in prices is bringing the law of diminishing returns effectively into play. We think the Board might be well advised to experiment as any merchant would do with a reduction in prices to ascertain whether an increase in sales justifies the reduction in prices from a profit point of view.

2. Representations have been made to us that the Board is paying excessive prices for the bulk Scotch whisky it imports and sells as 1, 2, and 3 Crown. If these representations are true then the Board should be able to import cheaper brands of equal quality for sale at prices substantially lower than it is now charging and still make the same percentage of profit. With a reduction in price there should be an increase of consumption and accordingly a greater profit.

3. The present system of fixing retail prices shows a considerable variation in the percentage of profits on various brands of the same class of liquor. This percentage in the case of Scotch whisky varies from a low of 61 per cent. to a high of 96 per cent. We recommend that a uniform percentage be added to the cost of imported liquor, a smaller percentage on liquor made in the Dominion, and a still smaller percentage on liquor made in British Columbia.