

ONTARIO LEGISLATION IN 1925.

The following summary of the more important Statutes passed by the Ontario Legislature in the year 1925 may prove of service to our readers.

Chapter 5.—This amends the Interpretation Act of 1914, the main amendment being that unless otherwise provided, when application to a court or a judge is permitted, application may be made by originating notice in the manner prescribed by the Rules of the Court.

Chapter 7.—Is the Representation Act. It redistributes the electoral districts and adds one to the number of representatives in the Ontario House.

Chapter 8.—Is the Ontario Legislative Assembly Act, and raises the sessional indemnity of the members from \$1,400 to \$2,000.

Chapter 9.—Makes the annual salaries of the Ministers \$8,000, while that of the Prime Minister is \$12,000.

Chapter 12.—Amends the Corporation Tax Act, making a tax of \$7,500 payable in advance for each day of every race meeting, provided that in the case of half mile tracks \$2,500 a day of this tax may be refunded if the amount wagered during the race meeting is less than \$1,100,000.

Chapter 13.—Makes amendments to the Succession Duty Act. If an estate includes Province of Ontario securities issued under provisions which exempt them from succession duty, the Treasurer of Ontario, it is enacted, may require payment of succession duty to be made in the form of these duty free bonds. This is resorted to as a method of redeeming duty free bonds which, with the recent high succession duties, are costing the Province much more than was originally contemplated.

The other amendment is to the effect that property deemed to pass on the death of the deceased includes the amount that the value of the property transferred for partial consideration exceeds the value of the consideration so paid; and the Act also makes it illegal for the property of the deceased person to be transferred until the succession duty of the deceased's estate is paid or payment secured.

Chapter 14.—Called the Luxury Tax Act, 1925. By it there is imposed a tax on all drinks containing from one-half per cent. to two and one-half per cent. alcoholic content by volume, in the amount of ten cents per gallon. The purchaser of wines must pay

a tax of fifty cents per gallon. On all other beverages the tax is five cents per gallon.

Chapter 16.—Is a new Act, called the Railway Fire Charge Act. It imposes a ten dollar tax per square mile yearly on the owner of railway lands and tenant of railway lands, with certain exceptions where the railway land is used for agricultural purposes.

Chapter 19.—Is the Northern and New Ontario Development Act, and makes provision for five million dollars to be appropriated for Northern Ontario.

Chapter 26.—Makes many small changes in the Highway Improvements Act, some sections being altogether repealed.

Chapter 27.—Amends the Provincial Highways Act by doing away with the Toronto and Hamilton Highway Commission and bringing this road into the provincial system.

Another addition to the Highways Act provides a bonus for owners planting certain kinds of trees on their premises adjoining any provincial highway.

Chapter 28.—Is a new Act and imposes a three-cent tax on gasoline, for the purpose of providing a fair contribution by the users of highways in Ontario towards the construction and maintenance thereof.

Chapter 30.—Amends the Agricultural Development Act of 1921, making provision for the establishment of the office of a Commissioner of Agricultural Loans and giving him certain powers to carry out his work.

Chapter 38.—Amends the Trustee Act by adding a clause to allow the Surrogate Court Judge to fix the compensation to be received by a trustee when the amount is not set out by the instrument creating the trust.

Chapter 42.—Is entitled "The Wages Act" and provides that when an employer is served with a notice garnisheeing or attaching debtor's wages, the creditor must also serve notice of his intention to apply for a reduction in the amount of exemption, and if the creditor does not do this, the employer may pay into Court thirty per cent. of the debtor's wages and hand the balance to the debtor. Provision is also made that upon giving five days' notice in writing to the other party the debtor or creditor may apply to the judge to have the debtor's exemption fixed.

Chapter 43.—Amends the Workmen's Compensation Act by stating that no compensation shall be payable where the accident happens and employer's chief office is out of Ontario.

Chapter 44.—Is called the Unemployment Special Relief Act and authorizes municipalities to levy a rate not exceeding one mill to meet the cost of work or service undertaken to relieve unemployment.

Chapter 45.—Makes several amendments to the Marriage Act, the chief one of which requires that three clear days must elapse between the time of issuing the marriage license and the solemnization of the marriage, unless otherwise specially authorized by the Provincial Secretary.

Chapter 47.—Amends the Landlord and Tenant Act. The amendments include a provision for making an application to a county judge by means of originating notice by the tenant, assignee or sub-tenant to determine whether the consent to the assignment or sub-letting was or was not reasonably withheld by the landlord, and if the judge makes the order permitting the assignment of lease or sub-letting, such order will be the equivalent of the license or consent of the landlord.

Chapter 48.—Amends the Ontario Medical Act, so that the title "Doctor," "Surgeon" or "Physician" cannot be used by anyone not registered pursuant to the Ontario Medical Act, except such title is used under the provisions of the Dentistry or Pharmacy Act.

Chapter 49.—Is called the Drugless Practitioners Act, and it establishes a Board of Regents, who will make regulations regarding the practice of drugless practitioners and healers.

Chapter 53.—Amends the Ontario Companies Act. Among other changes made in this Act, provision is made for the appointment of substitutes by absent directors, and it is enacted that the acts of the substitute shall be as binding as if performed by the director himself.

Chapter 65.—Amends the Highway Traffic Act by providing that after January 1st, 1926, everyone driving a motor vehicle must hold an operator's license.

Chapter 67.—Amends the Ontario Temperance Act by declaring that liquor is intoxicating when it contains more than two and one-half per cent. absolute alcohol by volume, and the Act provides regulations and conditions surrounding the sale of liquor up to the strength of two and one-half per cent. by volume. The number of prescriptions a medical practitioner may issue in any one month is reduced to thirty. In certain cases of breach of the Act penalties have been increased.

Chapter 71.—Forest Fires Prevention Act. This is an amending Act and makes it the duty of the Reeve of the Township to summon such help as in his opinion may be necessary to fight a fire raging in his township.

Chapter 74.—Is an Act which provides for the eradication of the European corn borer, and to do this it makes provision for an inspector to inspect corn growing in the Province and to give advice and instructions with a view to eradicating the corn borer.

Chapter 78.—Amends extensively the school laws of the Province. One of the main amendments provides for the establishment of metropolitan school areas by the Council of any county in which there is situated a city of at least one hundred thousand inhabitants.

Chapter 80.—Provides for the establishment of a Boys' Welfare Board in Ontario, consisting of thirty members, to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. This Board is given power to acquire a site and establish a home for boys, in which their conduct and education and their religious and moral training and instruction will be provided for.

Chapter 125.—The United Church of Canada Act has to do mostly with the property rights of the United Church and appoints a commission to adjust these rights between the United Church of Canada and the non-concurring churches.
