TRUCK RATES

(Continued from page 1)

lution.

Only other business at yesterday's meeting was the approval of Messrs. Walter Hyndman and Lieut. Col. K. S. Rogers, members of the Senior Board Council as non-voting members of the council of the Junior Board of Trade. The names were suggested by the Junior organization for approval.

The question of improved and speeded up facilities for handling passengers and automobiles by the car ferries at Borden and Tormentine was left with the Transportation Committee of the Board of Trade for consideration later.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

Following was the text of the resolution passed by the Board:

"Whereas, the Province of Prince Edward Island entered the British North American Confederation under an agreement arranged with the Dominion of Canada, which agreement obligates the Dominion to supply Prince Edward Island with services that are, or may be granted to the other Provinces.

"And whereas, one of the major obligations assumed was the supplying and maintaining, at the cost of the Dominion, adequate means of communication with the Mainland of Canada.

"And whereas, the guarantees thus granted to Prince Edward Island call for an efficient and continuous service, winter and summer.

"And whereas, the Tourist Committee of the Canadian Senate in their report for the year 1935 submitted, as regards Prince Edward Island, the following:—

"Moreover, as it was pointed out, it is the essence of the Canadian Partnership that ferry rates and service to and from the Province should be such as to relieve it, in so far as possible, of the disadvantages of its Island position, and anything short of this makes for insularity."

"And whereas, officials of the Canadian National Railways stated before the Duncan Commission that they were not concerned with the Terms of Confederation,

"And whereas, the said Canadian National Railways in their operation of the Ferry Steamships are charging exorbitant rates for the conveying of motor vehicles to and from the Province, which is a restraint on trade; the cost of transport being an effective determining factor in the economic life of the whole community. An illustration is given of a motor truck carrying five tons of third class goods—for return trip of eighteen miles the cost is $42.65 which is equivalent to travelling 1422 "gas" miles at three cents per mile (10 miles per gallon of gas).

"And whereas, the two boat trips are only operated for about four months of the year, whereas, the Terms of Confederation specifically state that the service was to be efficient and continuous, winter and summer, connecting with the Intercolonial Railway and Railway System of the Dominion.

"And whereas, only such rail service as will measure up and compare in efficiency with that in other Provinces of Canada will fulfill either the spirit or letter of the guarantees given Prince Edward Island,

"And whereas, costs of operation of the Car-Ferry system were taken out of the Accounts of the Canadian National Railways and made chargeable against the Consolidated Revenues of the Dominion, in accordance with the recommendations of the Duncan Commission; it is entirely a matter for arrangement between the Province of Prince Edward Island and the Federal Government,

"Therefore resolved, that the Provincial Government and Federal Representatives from Prince Edward Island be respectfully requested to bring to the attention of the Prime Minister and other members of the Federal Government, the pledges given to Prince Edward Island, as regards Transportation and other Services, and urge that they be fully implemented; and further, to specifically request that the Federal Government instruct the management of the Canadian National Railways to provide such Service, and make such nominal Ferry charges, as will fulfil the Terms of Confederation, as expressed by the Senate Tourist Committee, so that the Industrial and Commercial life of Prince Edward Island shall be given the fullest opportunity for development, which is most essential if the Province is to become an integral part of Canada, as was intended by the Fathers of Confederation."

PICTOU, N. S., March 24—(CP)—Eben Henry Hall, 89, one of the oldest members of the independent Order of Oddfellows in the Maritimes died here today. He had been a member of the Order in good standing since his 21st year.

BIRTHS

BRAZIL—At the City Hospital, March 20, 1939, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Brazil, Johnston's River, a son.

ATKINS—At the City Hospital, March 20, 1939, to Mr. and Mrs James Atkins, City, a daughter.

PETERS—At the City Hospital, March 18, 1939, to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Peters, Oyster Bed Bridge, a son.

DEATHS

MULLIGAN—In this city on Mar. 24 1939 John Joseph, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John Mulligan, 204 Dorchester Street. Funeral this afternoon.

MacNAIR—At 265 Richmond St., on Friday, March 24, 1939, Mrs. Andrew MacNair in her 84th year. Funeral from Trinity United Church on Sunday, March 26, service starting at 2 o'clock, funeral leaving at 2.30. Interment People's Cemetery.

N. D. MacLean
UNDERTAKER
EMBALMER
Charlottetown and
North Wiltshire
Phone 149

The Central Guardian

This column is reserved for news of local interest but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at 5 cents a word strictly payable in advance.

SEEK AUTHORITY— Preparations to seek authority from the Provincial Government to borrow $10,000 for the Deparment of Sewers and Water supply were made at an emergency meeting of the Charlottetown City Council last night. Mayor Foster said the money would be used for the purchase of new equipment.

PLOW BREAKS DOWN—A government snow plow clearing the 49 Road from Charlottetown to Montague broke down at Millview yesterday, it was learned last night. The machine returned to the City for repairs and would resume the work today, it was believed. There remained considerable heavy work before the plow, through Vernon River and Summerville residents of the districts said.

CAMERA CLUB MEETING—At a meeting of the Charlottetown Camera Club held in the Y. M.C.A., last evening various committees reported on their activities since last meeting. After lively discussions the members, were agreeably entertained by films shown through the courtesy of the Canadian National Railways. President Frank Tinney presided.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC HEAVY—Fourteen passengers were carried between this Province and the Magdalen Islands by Canadian Airways planes in the past two days, Pilot H. S. Jones superintendent of the service here said last night. Traffic continued heavy and was in excess of the 1938 season, it was believed. Mail volume was lighter at present than it was a few weeks ago, since the ice-breaker Montcalm cleared quantities in a recent trip to the Gulf Islands.

LIQUOR CASES IN COURT—Royal Canadian Mounted Police have had several liquor cases in court this week it was learned last night. On Tuesday at St. Peter's Magistrate Mellish of Montague fined three brothers, Herbert Saunderson, Lloyd Saunderson and Earle Saunderson, $200 and costs or 90 days in jail each. Thye were charged under the Prohibition Act with sale of liquor. During the week the following convictions were made in Magistrate G. J. Tweedy's Court in Charlottetown. E. Duffett, Winsloe, William Weatherbie, Millview and Lorne Flood, Southport, each fined $200 and costs under the Prohibition Act and $100 and costs under the Excise Act.

EXTENSION STUDENTS RETURN FROM ANTIGONISH—Forty-three Island students who were attending the leadership course at St. Francis Xavier Extension Department, Antigonish, returned on Thursday after a four weeks' session. They were all highly pleased with their experience, and enthusiastic over the hospitality of the people of the University centre. Among the subjects studied were credit unions, cooperation, social theory, and community organizations. There were six classes a day, three in the forenoon and three in the afternoon. There were eleven on the regular teaching staff, besides 14 special lecturers.

LEGISLATURE YESTERDAY—The Legislature sat yesterday morning and afternoon, adjourning at 6 o'clock to meet again this morning at 10. The Public Accounts and the reports of the Departments of Health and Education were tabled. Along with the Public Accounts, in a "new set-up" referred to in the Premier's statement quoted elsewhere in today's issue, were tabled a copy of the Accounts as previously presented and comparative statistics of the public finance, 1925-38. Third reading was given to an Act to further amend the Summerside Incorporation Act and an act respecting the Public Statutes; second reading to an Act to incorporate the St. Eleanor's Electric Light Company Ltd., The Judicature Act, Succession Duty Act, Registry Act, Escheats Act, Dower Act, Affidavits Act, and an Act respecting Repeals, the latter being consolidating statutes.

Personals

Miss Phyllis MacNeill, of Milton, P.E.I., is spending a few days with her aunt, Mrs. R.C. Goodall of Cherryfield.—Moncton Transcript.

Mr. J. T. Doyle of the National Canadian Drugs is confined to his home with an attack of flu.

Mr. D. A. MacNeill, Superintendent Canadian National Telegraphs Moncton N. B., has been in the city for the past two days on an inspection trip.

Mr. Walter O'Brien, Bristol, was among the adult students who returned from Antigonish on Thursday. The idea occurred to Mr. O'Brien to start a publication in connection with the course, and as a result of a meeting of the students "The First Annual Edition of the Extension Students Record" was published. It is a very praiseworthy production, and should prove an interesting memento of a unique experience in university life.

War Risk Rates To Go In Effect

NEW YORK, March 24—(AP)—United States Marine Insurance underwriters are planning to put into effect Monday war risk rates on overseas cargoes, it was learned today.

The new rates, it was said, will represent a "substantial" increase over present charges.

Similar boosts in insurance rates were made in the war crisis preceding the Munich Pact last September but were rescinded when the danger passed.

(London rates also were raised today.)

In Memoriam

In loving memory of our dear Mother Mrs. Angus MacDonald, who departed this life March 24, 1935.

Just waiting for the clasp of a vanished hand
And the sound of a voice that was stilled.

Kindly Remembered by Her Family.
L-1388-3-25-1i.

DISCLAIMS

(Continued from page 1)

at Mr. Bentley's office and discussed with him the legal effects of certain sections of the Act which he had originally drafted. Since that time I have been in conversation with Mr. Bentley dozens, if not hundreds, of times, and during all those opportunities Mr. Bentley did not make a single inquiry and did not offer a single suggestion regarding the administration of the Prohibition Act. I leave hon. members to judge how far Mr. Bentley was really interested in the matter. I was rather impressed by the speech made the other day by the hon. member from Annandale (Mr. Saville) and I am quite convinced that if the time and energy and effort expended by Mr. Bentley in his abusive attack on myself and my administration of the Act had been expended in a single constructive suggestion it would have been much more in the interest of law enforcement and true temperance.

"Just to make sure of the situation and in case Mr. Bentley might have made other inquiries, I made inquiry of the Provincial Auditor, of the Deputy Provincial Treasurer, of the wholesale vendor and accountant, and these gentlemen all assure me that Mr. Bentley had not made a single inquiry of them regarding the administration of the Prohibition Act. I made inquiry of the R.C.M.P. and found from them that on one occasion Mr. Bentley had found a junior constable of the force in charge of the records branch. He had made certain inquiries of him but the constable told him that Inspector Fripps was away at the time and he had no authority to divulge information. He referred Mr. Bentley to the Sergeant who was temporarily in charge of the barracks. The Sergeant gave him the same information, that Inspector Fripps was away and that during this absence he could not divulge any information without instructions from the Attorney General. Mr. Bentley went away with that answer and he never came to the Attorney General and he never went back when Inspector Fripps was there. Instead of that he pours his venom and abuse in this scurrilous article in the newspaper.

"So much for Mr. Bentley. The next question is, what about the general public? What information have they had under this or any other administration?

"When There Was An Opposition"

"It is true that while there was an Opposition in this House, questions were occasionally asked regarding various phases of the administration of the Act. Spicy bits of information were elicited in this way. Accusations and cross-accusations were thrown back and forth across the floor of the House and re-echoed in the newspapers. This was especially true since 1907 when the Conservatives at that time made a political football of Prohibition administration. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, that form of publicity amuses people; it is entertaining. Sometimes it may be beneficial. Sometimes I am rather inclined to think that it is the opposite. But what systematic publicity, which I am charged with having suppressed, has there been?

"On analyzing the situation one finds that the Prohibition Act has been in force for twenty-one years, from 1918 to 1938 inclusive. On how many occasions were the accounts of the prohibition administration tabled in this House? So far as I have been able to ascertain, on two occasions; in 1934 in response to a request by the President of the Executive Council who was then in Opposition, and in 1936 by the present administration; but on neither of those occasions were the tabled accounts published in the journals of the House. I might go further and say that I have made an exhaustive search of the years 1918 to 1925, and what does one find; that not a single public record is available of the accounts of the Prohibition Commission for those years in any form. This was the period during which Mr. Bentley was acting as solicitor and attorney for the Prohibition Commission. I am not saying that there was anything wrong with the books in those years, but they were a public record and some effort should have been made to preserve the records of these years in some form or other. But they have completely disappeared from off the face of the earth and we were particularly embarrassed in this respect when the Rowell Commission was sitting here and asking for information.

Auditing System

"During the period to which I have referred the books, as I said, were kept by the Prohibition Commission or officers, and the audit in those days consisted merely of a periodical check. In 1925 a new set of books was inaugurated and is still being continued under exactly the same system. In 1925 a new auditor, Mr. Moran, was appointed but the audit was still a periodic or quarterly one and the auditor was appointed by and responsible to the Commission. We all remember the famous occasion on which the Provincial Auditor was refused access to the books of the Prohibition Commission. In that year Mr. Moran was succeeded as auditor by the late Mr. L.B. Miller, but the auditor was still appointed by and responsible to the Commission, and the audit was still a periodic or quarterly one. In 1931 the Acting Provincial Auditor, Mr. Massey, was delegated to conduct the audit. That was an improvement because Mr. Massey, after he was appointed Provincial Auditor, was responsible to the House. But still from 1931 to 1935 the audit continued to be only a periodic or quarterly audit, what is known among auditors as a balance sheet audit. In 1935 there was a change made.

"Now to hear Mr. Bentley and Dr. MacMillan talk one would think that I had a free and unlimited control of all revenues and expenditures of the administration; that I could go around issuing checks and playing ducks and drake with the finances of the administration without any responsibility or accounting. It is true that from 1918 to 1935 when the administration was in the hands of a Commission, receipts were deposited in a bank account of the Commission; checks were drawn by the chairman of the Commission and the wholesale vendor. When I took over the administration I didn't want any responsibility of that kind, and since 1935 all receipts of the administration have automatically been deposited in a treasury account,—not in my account at all but in a treasury account. Although I happen to hold the office of Provincial Treasurer, if there is one person in the Province who can't issue checks it is the Provincial Treasurer. Every check must be issued under the signatures of the Deputy Provincial Treasurer and Provincial Auditor, in exactly the same way as the checks of all other government departments.

"Informally Available"

"Not only so, but the abolition of the Prohibition Commission and the bringing of its administration under the control of the Treasurer and Provincial Auditor has furnished this administration, not with a periodical or quarterly balance audit, but with a running, continuous audit of every item by our very thorough and competent Provincial Auditor Mr. Massey. During the two years, 1936 and 1937, the Provincial Auditor made the usual report on the accounts of the administration and I simply followed the customary procedure under all administrations (with the exception of two years, 1934 and 1936), of having the auditor's report and the accounts of the administration informally available for the information of the hon. members. They have not been formally tabled except in the two years to which I referred, and they have never under any administration been published in the Journals. This year I have taken advantage of the drafting of a new set-up of the Public Accounts to provide a place in the body of the Public Accounts for the insertion of the accounts of the Prohibition administration. For the first time in the history of the administration of the Prohibition Act, the Public Accounts will also be published in the Journals of this House.

Not In Detail

"These accounts naturally do not go into detail. I may say that the accounts were prepared in exactly the same form as they have been prepared from year to year under all administrations. I had in mind the making of certain improvements in the set-up of the Prohibition accounts also, but after consideration it was thought better to prpeare these accounts in the traditional way in which they have always been prepared from year to year in order that they may be convenient for ready comparison.

"These accounts naturally do not go into detail of the different brands of liquors purchased, or the quantities of each. The annual reports of the Prohibition Commission had never done so and I do not think it would be proper to clutter up the Public Accounts of the Province with such material. If, however, any hon. member wishes to have such information, it can readily be made available.

"I may say that the Government pays no commission whatever to any brewery or distillery agents. All liquors are purchased by Norman J. MacLeod, who has been wholesale vendor for twenty-one years. The prices paid by the Government are standard list prices which are uniform throughout Canada and can neither be raised nor lowered. Some of the brewers and distillers have local agents but in no case is any payment made to any agent in this Province. In every case payment is made direct to the brewery and distillery in question.

"In connection with the charge of secrecy certain castigations have been made by Mr. Bentley in particular with regard to under-cover investigations. I quite realize that under-cover investigations are unpleasant methods of procedure. I realize that a number of the members of this House are opposed to such a form of prosecution. Few members, however, realize to what an extent the enforcement of the Prohibition Act under all administrations depended on this method. At the meeting of the Temperance Federation to which I referred I pointed out that at all times under-cover men had been employed to act in cooperation with the police. When I say at all times I mean under all administrations, not particularly under the present. But the operation of such under-cover investigators had until recently been occasional, and I had merely introduced the innovation of making such investigations systematic. I remarked to the Temperance Federation that until recent years a very fruitful source of information was the rivalry of competing bootleggers, who sought to put their rivals out of business by informing against them. This source of information has become practically dried up, as the bootleggers have learned the benefit of organized cooperative protection.

Under-Cover Men

"Mr. Bentley is apparently not opposed to the principle of under-cover investigators. In fact he speaks with approval of the last investigation which was made by two special operatives of the R.C.M.P. But he refers to this investigation in the caustic term, 'he had to come to it in the end.' Nothing could be further from the fact. After a year's experience in the enforcement of the Prohibition Act I realized the handicap under which the police were operating without adequate under-cover assistance. Strangely enough, the administration of the Prohibition Act is one form of enforcement in which the people are reluctant to give information or evidence, and in many cases otherwise seemingly reputable citizens will go to the extent of perjuring themselves in order to protect those who are engaged in bootlegging and other offences against the Act.

"I might just cite a few examples of the type of difficulty with which the police are met in attempting to enforce this Act. Liquor will be found in the vicinity of a bootleg joint, concealed in a snowbank, in a dump, or a neighbor's field, or on the ledge of a neighboring building, with no possibility of obtaining evidence to connect it with the person who actually owns it. In other cases watchmen are stationed, signals are given on the approach of the police, and everything is got ready for their reception. A very frequent method of concealing evidence has been to wait for this signal of the approach of the police, to keep a small quantity of liquor on the premises which is replenished from time to time, and when the signal is given that the police are coming, to dump the evidence down the sink and follow it by an application of creolin or other odor-removing material.

"That apparently is on occasions an expensive expedient, and a new method has been devised by some of these ingenious people. An apparently innocent-looking hanger-on is kept on the premises. When the signal is given that the police are approaching, the bottle or other receptacle in which the liquor is kept is handed to this unobtrusive-looking individual, and as the police enter the building he walks out with it concealed on his person.

"All these difficulties and a great many others are encountered by the police, and members of this House will remember how in the early days of the present administration officials of the Temperance Federation were loud in their denunciation of the Government for not dealing with such a situation. Early in the summer of 1936 I discussed the matter with Inspector Fripps and we came to the conclusion that it was absolutely necessary to have special under-cover investigators to assist the regular police. Inspector Fripps knew, as I knew, that the R.C.M.P. had such investigators attached to their force. Negotiations were commenced in 1936 for the provision of such investigators in this Province, but it was found that the number at the disposal of the police was few; that some of those that were available were not suited to the requirements of this Province; that those who were suitable were for the time being engaged in other investigations; that they were for a considerable time tied up by court hearings and appeals and things of that kind. So it was not until two years later, in September, 1938, that these special investigators of the Mounted Police were actually available and arrived in the Province, and certainly did valuable work.

"Local Volunteers"

"In the meantime three under-cover investigations were carried out by operatives of a leading Montreal detective agency, and one by a group of local volunteers. Mr. Bentley speaks with particular vehemence of the employment of one of these young men. He asked what would the Temperance Federation say, but strangely enough the young man in question was introduced to me by one of the leading officials of the Temperance Federation with the suggestion that he be appointed in that very capacity. I debated the question for several months and after several interviews with Inspector Fripps it was agreed that he should be employed in the capacity of a guide to the other investigators. And he was well qualified to do that because he was familiar, unfortunately and to his own destruction, with the operations of practically every bootlegger in the Province. One of my principal hopes was that his activities would prevent him from further access to bootleggers, and that certainly has been the effect because since this young man turned the tables on the bootleggers he has been absolutely unable to get any bootleg liquor in the Province. In fact he tells me that he has not had a drink for a year, and that he has no desire to take a drink; that he spends his leisure time in the Public Library instead of as he used to, in the bootleg joints.

"I don't wish to take the time of the House in defending these under-cover investigators. May I simply refer to the statement made by the Judge of the Supreme Court with reference to the charges of immoral conduct which were placed against the so-called Belgian Count. The learned Judge after considering the evidence held that those charges were untrue.

"Mr. Bentley contrasts the record of these investigators with the record of the investigators in 1913. Why harp on that story? The investigators at that time did their work well enough, but the Attorney General and the Temperance Alliance could not agree as to the prosecutions. They were commenced, I believe, in Summerside,—eighty-four of them. Two attorneys appeared on the scene; one said he represented the Attorney-General, the other said he represented the Temperance Alliance, and they both demanded the right to conduct the prosecutions in those cases. The magistrate was nonplussed, and endeavored to get in touch with the Government. The Attorney General at the time was out of the Province; the other attorney claimed to have the authority of the Acting Premier. Finally, like a Solomon come to judgment, the magistrate decided that he would refer the question to the prosecutor, the Chief of Police in Summerside, in whose name the informations were laid. The prosecutor said 'Mr. So-and-So is my attorney to prosecute these cases.' But, fortunately or unfortunately, the other attorney had control of the evidence. The detectives were withdrawn from court and sent out of the Province, and in twenty minutes over eighty charges for offenses against the Prohibition Act were dismissed for want of prosecution. I don't think any prosecutions were ever carried on in Charlottetown at all as a result of that investigation. The situation which arose on that occasion illustrates the necessity of having the enforcement of the law vested in a centralized department of the Government, so that the authority to prosecute is beyond question.

"In 1926 there was another under-cover investigation, I believe by representatives of the same Field Detective Agency, in the city of Charlottetown. What was the result? We all know the conditions which they disclosed, which impelled The Guardian to describe those conditions in vivid headlines as "Hell with the lid off". It impelled the then Premier, Mr. Stewart, to comment on the disclosure of innumerable blind pigs and bootleg joints. It impelled Hon. Frank McPhee to say of the Prohibition Act that it was a piece of legislation that could not be enforced and in which they had lost all confidence. The government of the day had access to all that information. Here were the reports of all those blind pigs, of all those conditions described. What was the result? Not a prosecution. The detectives did their work well; information was submitted to the Government, but not a single prosecution was commenced, not a single charge was laid.

Blames Commission

"In 1929 a detective was brought down from Montreal by the Government to investigate a fire at Summerside. In the course of his investigation this detective gained a great deal of information and evidence regarding the activities of bootleggers. This evidence was submitted to the Prohibition Commission, but they decided not to institute any proceedings.

"Those are the outstanding examples of provincial under-cover investigations. Contrast the investigations of the past two years, resulting in vigorous prosecutions and in 94 convictions of offenders against the Prohibition Act.

"Another innovation which has been made in the enforcement of the Prohibition Act is the making of padlock orders. That law has been on the statute books for a number of years, but until the past few years not a single order was made under that section. In the past two years seven orders have been made for the padlocking of premises in regard to which three or more convictions were obtained. I don't wish to say that a padlock order is a conclusive end of bootlegging, but I believe it is a very important and effective method of combatting repeated, deliberate offenses against the Act.

"Another development which I believe to be of great importance is the police enforcement in the City of Charlottetown. The Prohibition Act provides that the City of Charlottetown shall receive one-third of the fines in cases where the information is secured by the City Police. Now what has been the case in previous administrations in this respect? The City has been getting its share of the fines all right, but the City Police have been securing no information and taking a negligible, if any, part in the enforcement of the Act. In fact, at certain stages the bootleg fraternity had come rather to regard the City Police as their friends and protectors. I don't say that this is altogether the fault of the City. The fact is that no Government took the proper steps to have the situation remedied. But now, I may state, arrangements have been made with the Mayor and City Council for the full and very satisfactory cooperation of the City Council of Charlottetown in the enforcement of the Act.

Increased Vendors' Sales

"Mr. Bentley says 'bootleggers are Mr. Campbell's competitors and it is good business for Mr. Campbell to prosecute them because he increases his own sales through the vendor's office'. I am quite free to admit that curtailment of the supply and distribution of the bootleg liquor has the effect of increasing the vendors' sales. This is not unique in this Province. I notice in the press of two weeks ago a report in connection with the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission, to the effect that proceedings against persons connected with the bootleg trade during the past year appeared to have a marked effect on the sales of rum and whiskey at Commission stores. According to the Commission's annual report, sales of rum and whiskey increased by 19.28 and 14.5 per cent respectively, and it notes also a resulting increase in the manufacture and sale of moonshine.

"I spurn and repudiate the suggestion that the Government is conniving in the sale of liquor through the vendors' stores. In the first place, when we took over I found the doctors were signing prescriptions in blank, and these prescriptions were filled in by the person to whom they were made out. I issued instructions not to issue any prescriptions unless they were filled in, in ink, by the prescribing physician. In the second place one retail vendor was dismissed for selling liquor on illegal prescriptions. In the third place, 18 orders were issued suspending the rights of physicians and dentists to issue prescriptions. In the fourth place, three physicians were prosecuted for the improper issuing of prescriptions. In the fifth place, several parties were prosecuted for improper traffic in prescriptions. In the sixth place, the Charlottetown vendor's office, which was formerly open on Saturday evening, is now closed at 6 p.m. and thus a busy and lucrative period of trade is eliminated. I don't think any of these acts look very much like drumming up business.

Doctors' Prerogative

"But there is one power which the Prohibition Act does not confer and has never conferred, either on a Comission or the Attorney General, namely, the power of limiting the number of prescriptions available to any physician. The doctor may be prosecuted only for improper use of prescriptions. If the Legislature sees fit to impose a limit of fifty, or twenty-five or even ten prescriptions per month on each physician, I will undertake to enforce such provision just as strictly and impartially as any portion of the Act. But the function of government is to enforce the law as it stands. I am not empowered either to act as a medical advisor to the medical profession, or as a moral tutor to their patients.

"I may, however, point out that restricting the number of prescriptions available to any physician would eliminate the very postulate—whether it is a fact or fiction—upon which the Prohibition Act is based, namely, that alcoholic liquor is a medicine and that the medical profession is properly qualified to prescribe its use as a medicine.

"I may point out that the Prohibition Act as we know it now came into force in 1918. Before that, liquor had been dispensed by the druggists, and enforcement had been in the hands of the Attorney General's department. In 1918 enforcement was taken out of the hands of the Attorney General and placed in the hands of a Commission of six members. I believe that several if not all of the first Commissioners were clergymen. The clergy were subsequently replaced by lay members. This continued until 1927. In that year Mr. Bentley was the principal spokesman for a group who urged on the Government that a Commission of six was too unwieldy for the administration of the Act, and proposed that the enforcement should be vested in a Commission of one. The Government—the Saunders Government of that day—did not see fit to grant this recommendation, but a compromise was made. The Act was amended to provide for a Commission of three, of which one was to be the chairman, and one the secretary.

This continued until 1931, when the then Conservative administration, after the election of 1931, appointed a new Commission of three, but instead of appointing one of the members as secretary, as provided by the Act, appointed a fourth member to be secretary of the Commission. Not only did that go beyond the authority of the Act in appointing this outside secretary and paying his salary, but they were not satisfied with a fourth wheel on this three-wheel vehicle but they appointed a purchasing agent and made him a fifth wheel on the coach.

"In 1935 this Government abolished the Commission and placed the enforcement of the Act back where it had been prior to 1918, in the hands of the Attorney General. A considerable saving was effected by this move alone. The chairman of the Prohibition Commission had been receiving $1200, the two other Commissioners $400 each, the secretary who was not authorized by the statute at all, $600, and the purchasing agent, $800, a total of $3400. For doing the work which those five men were supposed to do under the late administration, the Attorney General was given an increased salary in the amount of $500. So that there was a saving on those items alone of $2900.

"Many Daily Problems"

"Now the question arises, how did the Commission administer the enforcement of the Prohibition Act. The only substantial way in which a Commission can act is to hold meetings. My information is that under the late administration at least the Prohibition Commission held monthly meetings with occasional special meetings in cases of emergency. Now my experience of the administration of the Act has been that scarcely a day passes when there are not several problems arising which require to be promptly decided or on which the police and other officials require to be promptly advised. How were these questions handled in the days of the Commission? In the first place, I submit that although the legislation abolishing Commission administration was passed in 1935 by this Legislature, real Commission administration had been abolished long before that.

"Under earlier Commissions the enforcement of the Act was in the hands of a special body of police appointed and paid by the Commission. The attorneys and counsel who appeared to prosecute cases and to advise the Commission were appointed and paid by the Commission. But under the late Conservative administration—and I am not saying it was wrong, I am rather inclined to believe that it was right—the police enforcement of the Act was transferred to the R.C.M.P. The legal advisor of the Commission and the legal prosecution of the cases was transferred to the assistant Crown prosecutor. The R.C.M.P. in turn were under the direction of and responsible to the Attorney General of the Province. The assistant Crown prosecutors were assistants of and responsible to the Attorney General. Now it is clear that a great many of the problems which arise from day to day in the enforcement of the Act are legal or semi-legal problems. These under the last administration were referred either to the Attorney General himself or to his assistant Crown prosecutors. So that in both those respects, both in respect to police administration and in respect to advising prosecutions from the legal point of view, the administration of the Act was virtually taken out of the hands of the Commission and was substantially in the hands of the Attorney General's department.

"But even apart from that, as I said, a Commission can constitutionally act only through the holding of meetings, and various problems arise every day which the administrator of the Act requires to decide and to advise on. How was that done under the Commission? Take the last Commission. The chairman resided at Charlottetown, the second member resided in Prince County and the third member resided down in Kings County. They met once a month with sometimes a few emergency meetings in between. How were the problems which arose in the meantime decided? Well, as I said, by the police, by the Crown prosecutors who were members of the Attorney General's department, or if they were referred to the Commission how were they decided? They couldn't summon a meeting from the three Counties to decide every little question. The questions which arose from day to day and from week to week were either decided without reference to the Commission at all, or were decided by the chairman without holding any meeting. It would be safe to say that 90 per cent of the problems of the administration under the late Conservative administration were decided either without reference to the Commission at all, or by the chairman without reference to holding a constitutional meeting. So that if I have been appointed as a dictator in this connection, I have at least been acting with constitutional authority and as a minister of the Crown responsible to this House, whereas under Commission administration, particularly under the late Government, only the shadow of Commission administration was retained and it was inevitable that one or other member of the Commission should act as an unconstitutional dictator—should exercise powers which properly belonged to the Commission sitting as a board.

"The same is true with regard to the purchase of liquor. Under the late administration liquors were supposed to be purchased by a gentleman in Souris. I have no particular objection to Souris but why the Prohibition Act should be administered there I don't know. This gentleman had no particular qualifications for the work. He was entirely unfamiliar with the requirements of the business. Under the present administration, in spite of all these charges of secrecy and whatever else, all liquor is purchased and all accounts are kept by the wholesale vendor, Mr. Norman J. MacLeod, who has had twenty-one years' experience under six successive governments, and who is unquestionably one of the most competent officials in the public service of this Province.

The Public Accounts

Before introducing the subject of prohibition administration the Premier said he deemed it advisable to make an explanation of certain changes to be found in the Public Accounts for the last year. Three principal innovations were introduced.

"The first of these," he said, "may be termed an improved set-up. The set-up of the Public Accounts has developed in something of a haphazard manner. As the public service of the Province expanded from year to year and from decade to decade, new items of revenue and expenditure appeared from time to time in the Public Accounts, and these new items would find place where seemed most convenient at the moment of their insertion. I think it is obvious that in a development of that kind a periodical revision and consolidation of the Public Accounts is just as necessary as a periodical revision and consolidation of the public statutes of the Province.

"This necessity became most obvious a little more than a year ago when the Government was preparing its presentation to the Rowell Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations. In fact such necessity was not limited to the Public Accounts of this Province, but was more or less a common requirement of the Public Accounts of all the provinces.

"Pursuant to the requirements of the Rowell Commission, the Public Accounts as submitted to that Commission, together with what has popularly been known as a model budget, were submitted in our brief in a form which was intended to be uniform with all the provinces. Hon. members will recall that during last year's session of the Legislature copies of that brief were circulated among the members, and that they contained what was known as the Rowell Commission set-up of our Public Accounts for the year 1936. The clarity and better arrangement of our Public Accounts in that set-up was so obvious that the Provincial Auditor strongly advocated a revision of the Public Accounts and Estimates along lines largely similar to those suggested by the financial experts of the Rowell Commission. Acting on his suggestion the Public Accounts for the year 1938 are presented in the new set-up. But in case hon. members find any difficulty in comparing it with previous years, I ask leave to table also a stencil mimeograph copy of the 1938 Public Accounts in the old set-up. Copies of this will also be available for distribution.

"In addition, our Provincial Auditor has prepared a comparative statement of statistics of provincial finances covering the years 1925 to 1936. I have no doubt that this statement will be of great benefit to hon. members in forming a thorough estimate of the standing of the financial affairs of the Province, and I beg leave to table it along with the Public Accounts.

Sanatorium Accounts

"Another innovation is the inclusion in the Public Accounts of the accounts of the Sanatorium Commission. It is true that this Commission is an independent body but it must become increasingly apparent to members of this House and to the public that the Sanatorium Commission and its operations are coming to be more and more dependent, financially and otherwise, upon the Government. The Government therefore is coming to have a large indirect stake in the activities of the Commission and it is considered proper and expedient that the accounts of the Sanatorium Commission should in future form a portion of and be published along with the Public Accounts of the Province."

Basilica Dramatic Guild Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Basilica Dramatic Guild, which was graced by the presence of His Excellency, Rt. Rev. J. A. O'Sullivan, Bishop of Charlottetown, Rev. Father Petersen of the Paulist Fathers, New York City and a number of clergy was held in the Holy Name Hall on Wednesday, March 22nd.

Two one-act plays were presented to a large and appreciative audience.

The first under the capable direction of Mrs. Frank Murray was of a religious trend and congratulations are due the director and the players for a clever presentation of an interesting story. The players taking parts were, Matthew White, Clarence Howatt, Mary Callaghan, Iphigenie Arsenault, and Isabel Poquet.

The second play a rollicking comedy, full of wholesome wit and humor, was received with loud and prolonged laughter from an audience quick to grasp the meaning of the many funny lines and situations presented to them. The play was under the direction of Johnny McQuaid. The players taking part were, Florence McTague, Rita McIntyre, Hilda Brown, Myrtle Semple, Chester Donovan, Charles Donovan, Alfred McEachern, Maurice McTague, Patrick Mahar and Johnny McQuaid.

The above received generous applause for the active and intelligent manner in which they interpreted and portrayed their respective roles.

The Guild is making great strides in bringing out new and inexperienced talent and wishes to promote their work, which is both recreational and educational to the utmost.

The thanks of the Guild is extended to Mr. J. Austin Trainor, C. D. A. for make-up; R. T. Holman, Ltd. and Mr. Augustus Aylward for the loan of the necessary stage furnishings.

The plays were announced by Mr. Leo. Callaghan.

(Patriot please copy)

ADVENTURERS

(Continued from page 1)

Other members of the party included Emil Huddy of Gloucester, William Shepard of New York, William Butler of Boston, Richard Hemminway of Groton, Mass., Edward Watson of Milton, Mass., and Kenneth Langley of Hampton Beach, Mass.

Butler and Shepard remained in Tahiti, planning to go on a trip around the world. The others scattered with plans to return later. The brig was sold to a copra trader.

LONG AWAITED

(Continued from page 1)

control of a railway connecting Hungary with Poland.

The German Minister to Budapest paid two visits to the Hungarian Foreign Office apparently to obtain an explanation of the fighting in Slovakia, which Germany has agreed to protect.

In Bucharest a prospective shortage of foreign exchange arose as a result of Rumania's new five-year trade agreement with Germany.

The country expected industrial activity to be stimulated by the pact, but concern was expressed over means of handling the new business without foreign funds other than the controlled foreign exchange expected from Germany.