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AMENDMENTS MADE TO MOTOR VEHICLE ACT

A Breezy Discussion on a Subject of Much Public Interest--Cars Must in Future be Equipped With Dimmers---Increase in Fee for Autos--Members Strongly Favor Adoption of the Patrol System For Roads.

A bill to amend the motor vehicle law was passed in the Legislature on Tuesday after a lengthy discussion.

Hon. Mr. Veniot outlined the provisions of the bill the principal one of which is that it requires each car to be equipped with an appliance for dimming the lights on approaching any other vehicle, and it changes the method of assessing the tax from horse power to weight. The scale of fees will be 60 cents per hundred weight for all ordinary cars. Motor trucks, not exceeding two tons, \$10, with \$5 per ton or fraction of a ton over two tons, and motor cycles \$3.

Mr. Baxter said there should be some method provided, which would enable the number at the rear of the car to be seen at night. The color of some of the number plates was objectionable from this point of view, but as a rule they were badly lighted.

The Patrol System.

Mr. Magee said that he was pleased to note that diffusive lenses were to be required. He would like to see some provision made for adopting the patrol system and he would suggest an additional tax of 20 cents per hundred weight on all cars, the money to be applied towards the cost of installing the system. No one appreciated good roads better than did auto owners and the proposed taxation was suggested by their association.

Mr. McGrath said that the trouble was not always because of the blaze of light but because the rays were not deflected onto the road. His experience was that dimmers did not always work.

Mr. Sweeney said that dimmers were only required on the new cars, the old style of cars did not need them and the idea seemed to be to add a little more expense on old cars and help along the sale of new ones.

The Age Limit.

Mr. McGrath wanted to know why wait until the age of 18. There were lots of country boys capable of driving a car at 16 and he didn't think they should be prevented from doing so. He thought too much attention was being paid to head lights. Any lights would be sufficient to show you where you were going.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) was in sympathy with the use of the dimmer but he questioned the propriety of making the owners of old cars equip them with a new apparatus.

Use of the Dimmer.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said it did not matter about putting a dimmer on unless it was a particular kind of lamp. The old fashioned lamps did not give a glaring light.

Mr. Tilley wanted the age for chauffeurs reduced to 16.

Mr. Hetherington wanted to know if an examination or qualification was needed for a chauffeur's license. He agreed with the hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. Magee) as to the need of good roads and he thought all

autoists would be willing to pay the additional proposed tax. He suggested further that all members in the House who owned automobiles should give their seasonal indemnity towards starting the fund for the patrol system.

Mr. Robichaud wanted to know what the difference between an owner and a chauffeur was. If a chauffeur only drove for hire he certainly thought that 18 was young enough.

May Get Rattled.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said young boys were apt to lose their heads, in fact many complaints came from St. John of boys under eighteen being entrusted with charge of cars. Eighteen was quite young enough for a boy to be licensed.

Mr. Potts was of the opinion that it was highly necessary to have a dimmer. The strong lights were very dangerous and there was no need to throw light so far ahead.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) asked if the Minister had any idea what the proposed tax would realize.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that he could not calculate exactly but that there would be a considerable increase.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) said he preferred a tax according to value. It might be that men of moderate means would own a heavy car and they would have to pay just as heavily as a wealthy man.

Mr. McGrath was strongly in favor of the tax on value so that a rich man could pay for his luxuries and when a car was bought second hand the tax would be reduced accordingly. The tax on a heavy car would be just the same when it was old as it was when it was new though its value might be less than half.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Northumberland) read a letter from Mr. Ernest Hutchinson protesting against the proposed increase in the auto license. The writer pointed out that in his section autos could only be used six months of the year, while in the southern part of the province it was possible to use them twelve months. The speaker said he thought there was a good deal in the contention that a different scale should prevail for the northern part of the province.

Wants a Distinction.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) wanted to know if the hon. minister had ever considered the matter of a different fee for town and country owned autos. He pointed out that the city man made great use of country roads for the support of which he was not taxed. The country autoist on the other hand was taxed to keep up the roads and in addition paid a license fee. He thought some distinction should be made in the matter.

Mr. Potts said that it cost more to build roads in the city than it did in the country.

Mr. Magee said he expected to hear the hon. members opposite say more about the patrol system. This system was strongly recommended by the Automobile Association and he personally was in favor of it.

Mr. Murray (Kings) said that the Automobile Association was now raising a fund to assist in establishing a patrol system.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that he thought the bill went far enough in reference to a patrol system. If hon. members wanted an increased fee for the purpose he would make it 80 cents per hundred pounds instead of 60 cents.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) said he strongly favored the principle of the bill. When in charge of the department he had experienced difficulty in collecting all the fees and he believed that the law should be amended so as to compel dealers to take out a license for every car sold. He thought that some attention should be given by the bill to the rule of the road. The rule in Maine was to pass on the right and cars from that state when visiting this province frequently got into collision.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that the matter of passing to the left or right could only be dealt with in the highway act. If his hon. friend would be patient he might find that his views in this respect would be met.

Mr. Magee proposed an amendment to the bill which would make the possession of a number plate a prima facie evidence that the fee had been paid.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said he was strongly in favor of the patrol system. In this connection he would suggest that one-quarter of the fee be set aside for the purpose of establishing such a system.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that in order to test the feeling of the committee he would move that the fee be increased from 60 cents to 80 cents per hundred pounds and one-quarter of the amount be used to establish a patrol system.

Mr. Baxter favored the patrol system but thought that if an extra tax was collected from autoists it should be expended on the roads which are most used by them. If it were expended on all the roads no great benefit would result.

Mr. Robichaud said that as there were 10,000 miles of roads in the province and one man could only patrol ten miles a day 1,000 patrolmen

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HON. MR. SWEENEY'S PLEA ON BEHALF OF THE TEACHERS

Declares That Members of the Noble Profession are Poorly Paid for the Splendid Service They Perform--Should Have Allowance Increased--Hon Mr. Foster Promised That Matter be Considered.

The question of teachers' salaries, always a prolific subject, provoked an interesting discussion in the Legislature last evening. Mr. Sweeney, an ex-member of the profession, started the ball rolling by a stirring appeal to the government to make provision for more generous treatment of the members of an "overworked and poorly paid profession." His remarks were endorsed by Mr. Potts and several other members.

Mr. Baxter said he was under the impression that the late government had made provision for an increase in the salaries of school inspectors. He noticed that the salaries stood at the old figure of \$1,700.

Hon. Mr. Foster replied that the present government had made no change in the regulations. If an increase had been provided for by the late government the matter had evidently been overlooked in preparing the estimates.

A Plea for Teachers.

Mr. Sweeney wanted to know if it was the intention of the government

would be required at a cost of \$250,000. He thought the fee should be left at 60 cents a hundred.

Mr. Sweeney said that if the autoists were to furnish the money for a patrol system the association would probably want to control its expenditure.

Province Will Control.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that money once paid into the treasury belonged to the province and its expenditure would be controlled by the province.

Mr. Murray (Kings) thought that the question of increasing the fee to 80 cents should be carefully considered. Mr. Smith (Carleton) said that increasing the auto fees for road purposes would mean a decreased expenditure from the ordinary road fund. He thought that \$30,000 or one-tenth of the ordinary road fund should be expended on a patrol service.

Mr. Baxter while favoring a patrol system pointed out that the details were yet to be worked out. The sum of \$60 a month would provide only a man and shovel and more than this would be needed. He thought a plan should be worked out for the coming year.

Hon. Mr. Veniot in withdrawing his amendment said that the matter of a patrol system would have the careful consideration of his department during the coming year.

The bill was agreed to.

to make provision for increasing the salaries of school teachers. He held that today teachers were the poorest paid class in the province. People in other walks of life had had their salaries increased but the claims of the teachers had been persistently ignored. It was really the only profession that is practically starved so far as public assistance is concerned. They are a most deserving class of people, and should be encouraged as far as was possible for the government to do so. In most cases they got nothing but a mere pittance for the valuable service which they rendered the country. In many cases municipalities had found it necessary to grant increased salaries to teachers in order to make up for the small allowance made by the government. Teachers were expected to look after the training of children, and they undoubtedly did their work well and deserved to be paid for it.

Mr. Potts said he entirely agreed with every word spoken by the hon. member for Westmorland. He considered it strange that any city or town should expect the children to be properly educated when they were content to pay teachers a smaller stipend than was paid to domestics. Under present conditions it was impossible for a teacher to concentrate her mind on her work because she is troubled by the problem of keeping soul and body together. Under the circumstances it was not surprising that many lady teachers had their minds set on getting married as soon as possible and getting out of the profession. He believed that too much money was being spent in connection with the higher grades of schools, to the neglect of the lower grades.

Teachers Poorly Paid.

Mr. McGrath agreed with the hon. member for Westmorland that teachers were insufficiently paid for the service they performed. They received practically the same salaries as they did twenty years ago, notwithstanding the fact that living expenses have in-

(Continued on page 4.)