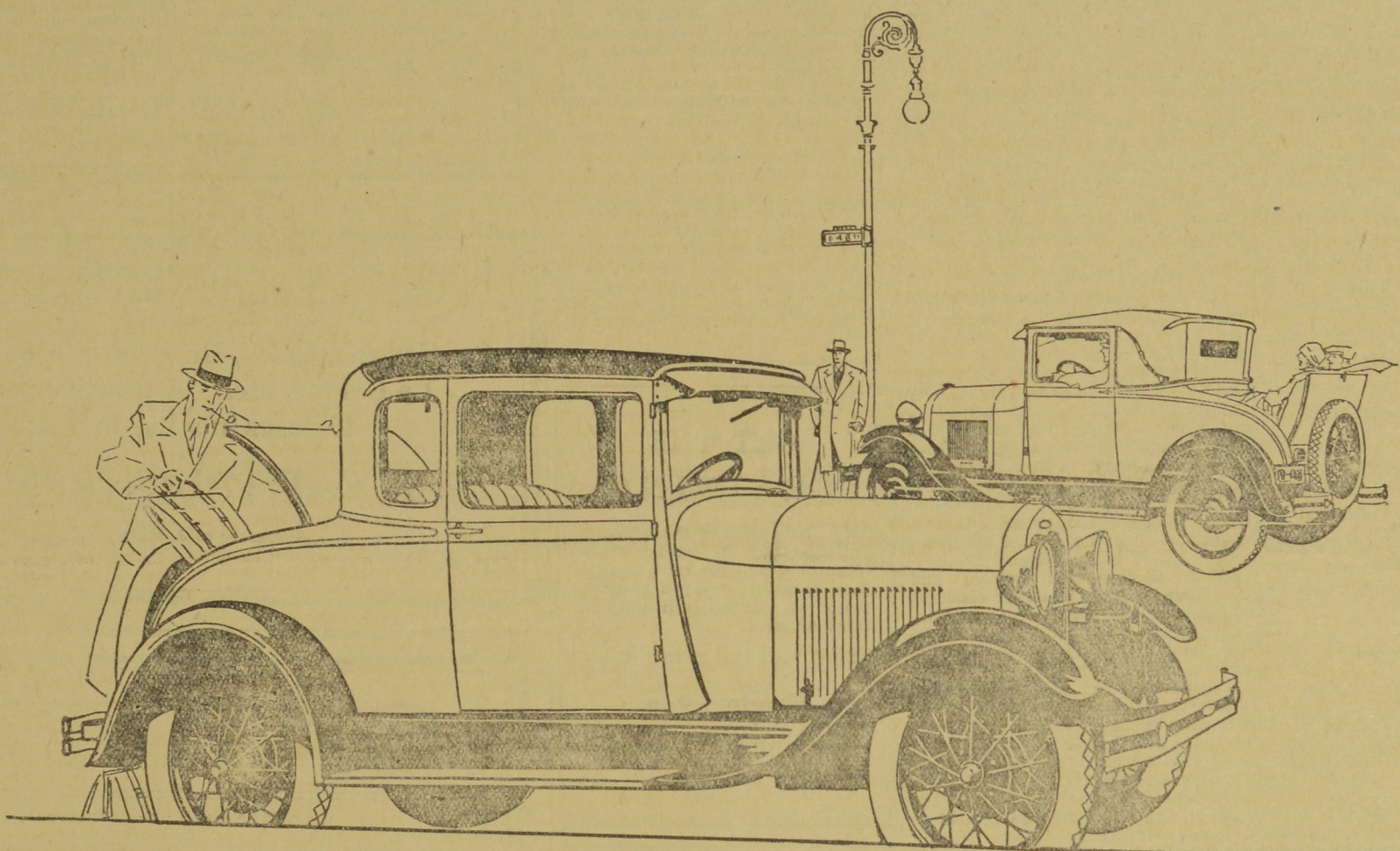


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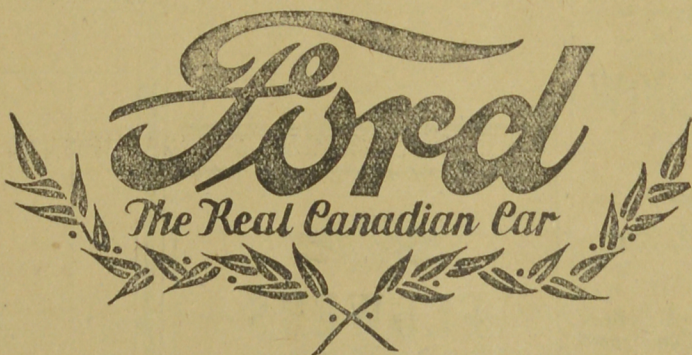


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NEW LIQUOR CONTROL LAW DISCUSSED.

(Continued from page two)

monopoly of gigantic proportions, a non-competitive institution, controlling alike the purchase price of raw material, and the selling price of the finished product. He would again warn the Government to be on guard for he viewed with no little apprehension the formation of such a monopoly virtually in control of our timber resources.

The Lumber Commission.

The Grimmer Commission, so-called, was appointed in October, 1926, and the general scope of the inquiry might be gathered from one of the recitals in said Commission—"Whereas reports have been made to the government by various lumber operators that the lumber industry in the province is in an unsatisfactory condition and that a serious reduction in this industry will take place unless relief be granted in respect to stumpage rates and other charges, etc."

When the findings of the Commission were read a guess could be wagered as to these "various lumber operators" were. Under the guise of working for and on the behalf of the great army of men engaged in the long lumber industry, the triumvirate laid the foundation for winning the concessions it sought.

The Commission was appointed by Order-in-Council, under the provisions of Chapter 12, Consolidated Statutes, 1903. Section 9 of that Act requires of a Commission so appointed three things; first, that it should report the evidence so taken, the findings thereon and the proceedings, all three to be reported to the Provincial Secretary to be by him laid before the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council.

Scents a Mystery.

The findings of that Commission were, however, tabled in the House by the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Mines, but none of the evidence was tabled. In response to a question, the Premier said the Government had not seen the evidence. What was the mystery surrounding the investigation? Why was the evidence upon which the report was based, concealed? The House and Country, he maintained, were entitled to have the evidence produced, and the only conclusion at which he could come to was that the government had deliberately suppressed the evidence because of the relation existing between "various lumber operators" and itself. On behalf of the Opposition in the House and the electorate of the province, he respectfully demanded the tabling of the evidence given before the Grimmer Commission. He had been informed that the witnesses before the Commission were not sworn, and that hearings were held in camera. Was this done at the instance of the government, and did the Attorney-General order the Commission not to take evidence on oath, and not to file the evidence as by law required?

Commission Criticized

The report had pointed out that while the pulp and paper industry was in a flourishing condition, operators in the long lumber industry recorded an average loss of \$5.54 per thousand. If these findings were well-founded, the operators to break even would have to have free stumpage plus a bonus of \$2.54 per thousand. But the Commission, with this evidence before it, determined upon a \$3.00 rate for stumpage. Apparently the Commission disbelieved these witnesses, which may be a reason for the suppression of the evidence.

But what of the Commission's findings in the matter of stumpage for pulp and paper? Previously, stumpage had been fixed at \$2.10 per cord of a 600 board content. They found that the pulp and paper industry had flourished and developed greatly, differing from the long lumber industry that recorded such losses, and yet the Commission made two recommendations—first, that the rate of stumpage be reduced on pulp from \$2.10 to \$1.75, and that the board foot content of the cord be reduced from 600 to 500. Such a finding lightened the

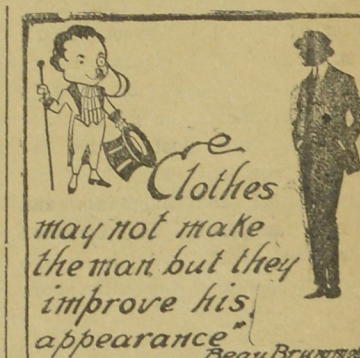
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