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The Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1897.

ALLIANCE PROTESTS

The Harcourt Bill Not a Satisfactory Measure.

AN INFLUENTIAL DEPUTATION

Waited on the Provincial Government Yesterday and Stated Their Grievances –Mr. Hardy Defended the Position of the Government, Which, He Says, Is a Temperance One.

Toronto, March 12.

Yesterday was Prohibition or rather Protest Day in Toronto, and about 500 prohibitionists, many of them from outside places, assembled in the morning at the Guild Hall, McGill-street, for an emergency convention at the call of the Dominion Alliance, to discuss and protest against the new license bill of the Government.

The meeting was opened by Dr. J. J. Maclaren, who described the negotiations with the Government and the steps taken by the Dominion Alliance. The Harcourt bill was far short of what had been expected, and the only course open now was to bring the greatest possible pressure on the Government.

Ald. F. S. Spence advised that an Executive Committee be appointed to deal with the proposals and resolutions submitted to the convention. On this motion, the following twenty-five were elected: Dr. J. J. Maclaren, Q.C., Rev. William Kettlewell, G. H. Lees, F. S. Spence, Rev. Dr. McKay, Rev. A. C. Courtice, Rev. W. F. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Ryckman, Mrs. Thornley, Rev. J. S. Ross, Hon. S. C. Biggs, Rev. J. McEwen, Rev. W. A. Hunter, W. H. Orr, E. S. Cummer, Miss Wills, Mrs. Chamberlain, George Wrigley, S. J. Duncan-Clarke, Mrs. A. O. Rutherford, Hon. Senator Vidal, Mrs. Lees, Mrs. Watson, F. W. Watkins, Rev. Mr. Aull.

The committee went right to business, and the delegates talked over their troubles and aired their differences of opinion, which were many.

Mr. G. H. Lees moved that the whole convention march in a body to the Parliament Buildings and impress the Government by force of numbers.

Finally, the motion of R. N. Burns was carried, that the Committee on Resolutions appoint the speakers who should lay the demands of the meeting before the Government, and that as many members of the convention as could should attend at the interview.

After an adjournment for lunch, the convention resumed and took up the report of the Committee on Resolutions, each clause of which was taken up in turn, with the result that the following was ultimately decided upon as the proper thing to go to the Government:

"That in view of the mandate of the people of this province on Jan. 1, 1894, and in view of the pledge of the Government, this convention affirms: (1) The unalterable basis of its approach to the Provincial Government to be the most effective temperance legislation within its jurisdiction and such as will be an adequate response to the demands of the people and as an honorable fulfilment of the Government pledge.

"(2) That we reaffirm the request of the temperance convention of last July to be a very moderate instalment of temperance reform, and we express great dissatisfaction with the proposed legislation as a response to our requests as being far behind what is within the power of the Government to grant.

"(3) That, while we do not consider the bil as satisfactory, we consider the following points as favorable: (a) That the age limit has been raised; (b) that the new bill cuts off 5 per cent. of the present number of licenses; (c) that it somewhat restricts the sale by druggists, but the clause in question requires important modification so as to prevent abuses.

"(4) We consider the following points as retrograde legislation: (a) That section 1 of the bil shall not apply to county towns having a population of 2500 or less; (b) the withdrawing from Municipal Councils of the power they now possess of annually reducing the number of licenses in the municipality.

"We regret that the word 'apparently' be struck out in reference to the age limit; (2) we are thoroughly dissatisfied with the present bill as to the number of licenses to be issued in proportion to the population; (3) we also thoroughly condemn the proposed method of elections preventing the renewal of a license in any polling subdivision; (4) we are quite dissatisfied that no response had been made to our appeal to prohibit drinking and distribution of liquor in clubs; (5) we are dissatisfied with the bill as to the closing hours which are proposed; (6) we object to the inefficient legislation in the bil for the cancellation of licenses irreguarly and improperly granted."

Rev. Mr. Courtice, seconded by Rev. Mr. Kettlewell, wanted the following added, but was persuaded to withdraw it after a heap of warm discussion:

"Having reviewed the development of the temperance movement leading up to the present bill and having considered the bill itself in its particular provisions with an expression of our views on the same, we offering our conviction that the temperance situation in Ontario as created by the plebiscite vote, the Government's pledges, and the Privy Council's decision, warrants us in expecting, and we hereby pledge ourselves to work for, a far more thorough reconstruction of the license system than we have yet asked for, with a view of securing that measure of partial prohibition which was promised by Sir Oliver Mowat, and is possible under a provincial license law unless the adoption of Dominion prohibition shall relieve our provincial legislators; more particularly we affirm that the prevention of bar room drinking and of the treating system and of the drinking on the premises where the liquor is sold is possible within the limits of a licensed retail and wholesale trade in the Province of Ontario, and we inform the Government that it will be our purpose to crystallize public opinion to such an issue and our expectation that the Government will respond in up-to-date aggressive measures."

The resolutions to go to the Government had been adopted when there was a most unseemly wrangle between Rev. Mr. Kettlewell, the Mayor and nearly everybody else. Mr. Kettlewell wanted the following to be added to the resolutions:

"That sec. 5, sub-sec. 2, of the committee's report be struck out and the following substituted therefor: 'That the people of this province have declared by a majority of nearly 82,000 for prohibition to the extent to which the Legislature of this province has jurisdiction; that the Government has promised such a prohibitory bill as the decision of the Privy Council warrants; that it is the conviction of this convention that the Legislature has the power to so regulate the traffic as to cut off all hotel licenses, and we hereby request that a law be enacted by the Legislature providing that all hotel licenses be extinguished."

After the wrangle Mr. Kettlewell was ruled out of order, and the deputation half an hour late went to interview the Cabinet.

The Council chamber was packed with delegates, sitting and standing, and many who could not get inside were crowded in the corridor. Seated around Premier Hardy were Hon. Mr. Ross, Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Hon. Mr. Davis, Hon. Mr. Harty and Speaker Eventurel. The Mayor had got mixed in the shuffle and was not handy after a short wait, so Ald. F. S. Spence told the Premier what the deputation were in attendance for. He said the people had at the polls by an enormous majority declared in favor of prohibition of the liquor traffic. Sir Oliver Mowat had promised prohibition as far as the law would allow. Sir Oliver had been transferred to another sphere, but it was understood from Mr. Hardy last July that the Government have the same feeling as its predecessors, and would go as far as public sentiment would warrant.

A bill had been presented which falls far short of what might reasonably be expected. It did not come up to the expectations due from the promise given by Premier Hardy last July. Twenty-three amendments had been asked for, and a few of them more important than the rest, and on these the bill did not come up to expectations at all. The prohibitionists were thankful that the age limit had been raised and thankful that the sale of liquor had been to some extent restricted by druggists.

Mr. Spence contended that the bill did not go as far as the feeling of the people demanded. It was to be regretted that the hour of closing was still 10 and 11 p.m. If the sentiment was against it the electors in the municipality should have the power to change it. He spoke on the lines of the resolution, which was then read by Rev. Dr. Ross.

The committee appointed to lay the case before the Government then in turn spoke. Mayor Fleming, Rev. Dr. McKay, Rev. A. C. Courtice, W. W. Buchan, Mrs. May Thornley, Hon. S. C. Biggs and Senator Vidal all spoke in a livily strain, Mrs Thornley particulalry saying some very plain things to the Government. Applause was frequent from the crowd, which was so great that it filled every corner of the room.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said the Government was always glad to meet the temperance people and hear their views. Speaking for himself and his colleagues they had nothing to recall. He had listened to the speakers, and if he had one regret it was that the bill was called a retrograde measure. There was not a retrograde line in it. The one question upon which there might be a difference was taken from the Scott Act, relating to the three years' life of a bylaw granting license, and if that was a mistake the Government were prepared to reconsider that question. Referring to his promise in July, Mr. Hardy said: "I do not for one moment take back what I said. We are a temperance Government and I do not retract for a single moment."

"I was," continued the Premier, "not speaking of a prohibition bill, but a license bill. The people seem to combine the two. They are at opposite ends of the pole. Prohibition is one thing—license another. There is not a word spoken in reference to a license low. It was prohibition in part or prohibition wholly."

"No, no," and hisses.

"I have the documents in my hand," Mr. Hardy replied. "Mr. Marter had introduced a bill doing away with the sale of liquor by retail. Sir Oliver doubted if the Government had the power to prevent sale of liquor by retail, and if so, it also had power to prohibit wholesale. The question was submitted to the Supreme Court."

The Premier pointed out emphatically that Sir Oliver Mowat spoke, not in reference to a prohibition, but to a license law. It wasn't argued before the Privy Council as regards licenses —it was as regards prohibition. The dispute was not what Sir Oliver had said, but the way the deputation had applied it—whether he had been referring to a prohibition or a license law.

As to his own promise, it was "as far as jurisdiction will permit and public sentiment will approve. What can we do?" We are not expected to attempt to carry through what we cannot. Our majority is not large, perhaps 8 or 9 on a test vote. We claim some voice in interpreting our promises. We don't leave our promise to any person to construe it and apply it his own way. A change of five votes, and the Government drops. [Cries, "Let it drop."] It doesn't do to say we are to rely on the Opposition. We can't hand over the reins to the Opposition. I have not seen or heard from the Legislature that we have any more power. He himself had carried 4 or 5 bills through the House, and could recall none but that came out much different to the way it came in. This bill is introduced on the same ground. We are prepared to discus sit.

Our record is not hostile to temperance, continued Mr. Hardy, and then he mentioned how Senator Vidal had been 30 years in the Dominion Senate, but what had he done in the way of temperance legislation? This was an illustration of how much easier it is to preach than to practice. Mr. Hardy continued that we have to be practical, to do what we can, and although he did not say the bill reached the limit, he could say it was reasonable. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"]

I don't see the gentleman who says "Oh, oh," and I don't want to be goaded into saying anything warmly, remarked the Premier, and he went on to defy anyone to point out in fair discussion anything reactionary in the bill excepting, perhaps, that which related to the three-year term of license.

In addition to the reduction of licenses, druggists were prohibited, and where one hour was taken off closing time it was good in proportion with three hours, was it not? [Laughter.] Then "sale sto minors." He did not suppose it possible to amend it, but some one said there, "No advance." Saloon licenses were to be abolished— "No advance," he supposed.

Concluding, Mr. Hardy said: "When you come to consider ultimate action, we can only go as far and as fast as we can. That's our pledge. Sir Oliver was on a different question."

Whn Mr. Hardy took his seat the Mayor said the deputation would like to hear Hon. Mr. Ross, and the latter gentleman replied that it was unnecessary, and in a few remarks pointed out that the members of the Government were unanimous regarding this bill.

When the Minister had concluded the members of the Cabinet left the chamber and Ald. Spence was detailed to hunt up a place for a meeting right away to consider Mr. Hardy's reply. The lecture hall in the Y. M. C. A. was the building secured. The delegates made their way there and the place was soon packed.

Here all kinds of nasty things were said about the Government and the Mayor evidently didn't think it was a proper place for a good Reformer, so he left the chair, and went to attend another meeting. Rev. Mr. Van Wyck taking his place. Following are samples of what some of the delegates thought of Mr. Hardy's reply:

Rev. Dr. Ross: No give, no yield. I am totally dissatisfied with the answer. Mr. Hardy has quibbled and he cannot convince the country that he has not broken faith. No Government can stand if there is a well-grounded suspicion of breach of faith prevailing.

Mrs. Thornley, London: Totally and utterly unsatisfactory; in fact, Mr. Hardy wished us to understand that we can't expect him to keep any promise that would endanger his political life.

A large number of the delegates spoke and there was dissatisfaction from all.

Rev. Mr. Courtice moved, "That we authorize a deputation of the temperance workers in Toronto to represent this prohibition convention and wait on Mr. Whitney and leaders of the Opposition, also on Patron Leader Haycock and members of the Patrons to explain the situation as presented in the convention, and ask for their assistance in securing the advanced legislation we are seeking. This was lost, this amendment by Dr. Ross carrying: "That a committee be appointed to watch the progress of the bill through the House and to promote as far as possible amongst the members the policy adopted by the convention."

The committee appointed is composed of Messrs. Maclaren, Q. C.; F. S. Spence, Rev. A. C. Courtice, Hon. S. C. Biggs, Mayor Fleming, L. Duncan, Dr. Fisher, Rev. Dr. Potts, ex-Ald. Jolliffe, Rev. E. E. Scott, Ald. J. J. Graham, R. W. Dillon.

This warm resolution was moved by Mr. Lees, seconded by Mr. Watkins: "That, after having heard the report of the deputation appointed to wait on the Government, and after considering the reply of the Premier, giving the reasons of the Government for their failure to fulfil their repeated promises to give us the maximum prohibition in their power, resolved that it is our deliberate opinion that we have been grossly deceived, and that, unless the Government brings in a bill to adequately redeem their pledges they are no longer worthy of the support of prohibitionists."

This was looked upon as a little strong, and, as the bill was not yet passed, Ald. Spence made an amendment to the effect that the motion be considered six months hence.

Mr. R. W. Dillon came forward with another amendment, as follows:

"That this convention, having heard the reply of the Attorney-General, expresses its profound dissatisfaction with the same, as not being in harmony with the moral effect produced by the pledges given by Sir Oliver Mowat and himself."

This seemed to catch on well, but the next amendment by Rev. Dr. Ryckman carried:

This is it: "Resolved that this convention, having listened to the report of the statements of its representatives before the Government on the amendments to the license law now before the Legislature of Ontario, and also the statements of the Hon. Mr. Hardy in reply, cannot refrain with its responsibilities in expressing its deep dissatisfaction with the result of the interview with the Government.

"In the opinion of this convention the claim of the Premier, that the present amendments are a fulfilment of his pledges, and that he is to estimate the public sentiment of the country by the atmosphere of the present Legislature instead of by the result of the plebiscite and the evident warmth of public feeling at the present moment, is entirely unsatisfactory. Although disappointed, this convention will not be discouraged, but will earnestly persevere in all proper endeavors to accomplish the object ever before it, viz.: the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic."

The meeting then adjourned after the delegates had had a few more wrangles among themselves and a blessing had been asked.

Death of a Woman of 400 Pounds Weight

Pittsburg, March 10.—Mrs. Ruth Holler, who weighed 400 pounds, died at her home in Allegheny yesterday of fatty degeneration of the heart. Within the last three years Mrs. Holler had increased in weight from scarcely 100 pounds to over 400 pounds. During the past six months she had lived in the second storey of her home, being unable, on account of her enormous size, to get up or down stairs.

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LOCAL LEGISLATURE

The Opposition Still Gunning for Mr. Conmee.

WHITNEY HUNTING FOR A SCANDAL

Batch of Municipal Act Amendments–Gas and Electric Plant Debentures–Shall Cattle Have the Run of the Highways–Y. M. C. A. Exemption Refused.

Toronto, March 12.

A good deal of business was accomplished by the House in an hour and a half this afternoon, a large number of Municipal Act amendments and other bills introduced by private members passing the second reading. Only one bill was introduced—an Assessment Act amendment by Mr. Dickenson, providing that where land has become liable for sale for arrears of taxes, which is contained in territory which has been separated from the county and annexed to a separated town or city, the proceedings may be taken by the Mayor and Treasurer of the separated town or city.

AFTER CONMEE'S SCALP.

Mr. Whitney enquired, Was James Conmee, member for West Algoma, a candidate for the electoral district of Nipissing, in the House of Commons, at the General election in June, 1896, and if so, did he at any time previous to the day of polling, resign his seat in the Legislature of Ontario? If he did so resign, what was the date of such resignation, on what date was it received and by whom?

The Attorney-General stated that Mr. Conmee's resignation was not placed in the hands of the Speaker. Mr. Conmee stated that he had placed his resignation in the hands of his solicitor, who had not forwarded it to the Speaker. After the Nipissing election Mr. Conmee asked him whether he ought to resign, and after conferring with the Council he told Mr. Conmee that the Government could not advise him in the matter. His resignation could accomplish no object and would put the Province to an expense of a few thousand dollars. It was not, in any event, a matter of which the Government were called on to take cognizance.

Mr. Willoughby asked, Have charges been laid against C. H. Widdifield, barrister, Picton, Local master in and for the County of Prince Edward, regarding improper conduct in his office as Local Master. If so, what are the specific charges laid against him and when were they received by the Government. Is it the intention of the Government to order an investigation, and if so, when.

The Attorney-General, in reply, stated that specific charges had been laid against Mr. Widdifield of inducing members of the profession to have references made to him instead of to others. Mr. Fleming had been instructed to examine into the matter, and a partial investigation had been made.

HUNTING FOR A SCANDAL.

Mr. Whitney moved for a return of copies of all orders in Council, during the past year, referring to the sale of timber berths by tender rather than by public auction, and giving a statement showing the dates of such sales, the number of square miles sold to each purchaser and the price at which the same were sold in each case, the names of each person so tendering for berths and the amount of each tender.

In speaking to the motion the Opposition leader repeated a fairy story he had heard about the sale of limits without publicity of competition, to political favorites of the Government.

Hon. J. M. Gibson had no objection to satisfying Mr. Whitney that the sales referred to were perfectly regular and that due publicity had been given to them. A quantity of timber damaged by fire had been sold when it was urgent that it should be quickly disposed of to avoid loss. In one case invitations had been sent to all who had tendered at a previous sale, and there was keen competition.

Dr. McKay's (Oxford) bill to amend the General Road Companies Act received a second reading, the introducer explaining that its object was to provide that lights should be displayed when toll-bars were down after dark so as to prevent accidents to bicyclers.

MODERN IMPROVEMENTS NOT PROVIDED FOR.

Mr. Garrow moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Municipal Act, explaining that it was to put electric lighting on the same footing as as in regard to issuing debentures. As electricity was not used for lighting purposes when this act was framed there was no provision by which debentures could be issued by municipalities to pay for electric lighting plant.

Mr. Mathieson and Hon. J. M. Gibson thought there was no vital difference, as a gas plant was much more durable than an electric plant, and therefore it was more reasonable that 30 year debentures should be issued in the former case than to pay for plant which would wear out long before the term of payment had expired. The bill received a second reading.

Mr. German's bill to amend the Electric Railway Act (1895), by placing incorporated villages on the same basis as towns, was read a second time.

JURISDICTION OF DIVISIONAL COURTS.

Mr. German moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Divisional Courts Act saying that while the bill might not be in the interests of the legal profession it certainly was in those of the public. He explained that in a case of unsettled accounts of over $400 action could not be brought in the Division Court, although the balance recoverable might be very small. The amendment provided that no matter what the size of the original account, if the balance due was not over $100 it could be sued in the Division Court.

Mr. Whitney opposed the bill on the ground that it would allow complicated cases involving large amounts or difficult questions to be decided by the Division Court.

The Attorney-General thought that there ought to be some limit, based on the extent of the original transactions, in extending the jurisdiction.

After several others had spoken, principally in opposition to the bill, it was read a second time.

Y. M. C. ASSOCATION REFUSED EXEMPTION.

Mr. O'Keefe moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Assessment Act, which exempted Y.M.C.A. buildings from taxation.

Mr. Whitney opposed the measure on the ground that exemptions ought to be restricted instead of increased. Mr. Howland observed that Young Men's Christian Associations were practically commercial institutions, and as the proprietors of other public halls were taxed he did not see on what principle the former should be exempt.

The bill was withdrawn.

SHALL CATTLE ROAM THE HIGHWAY?

Mr. Moore's bill to amend the Municipal Act in order that cattle might be allowed to run at large on the highways excited general interest and a lively discussion. Various opinions were expressed, the rival members being apparently pretty evenly divided as to the expediency of allowing cattle to pasture on the roads. Hon. J. M. Gibson pointed out that under the Railway Act municipalities would be liable to damage should the straying of cows upon railroad tracks result in accidents. The bill went to committee.

Two or three other Municipal Act amendments and Mr. Howland's bill for the prevention of accidents through elevators were put through second readings.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Mr. Smith—Bill to amend the law of Landlord and Tenant.

Mr. Beatty (Leeds)—Order of the House for a return showing all the remuneration received by the superintendents of each Insane Asylum in the Province for the years 1895 and 1896, whether paid in cash or by goods supplied, or from services rendered by other persons in the employ of the Government; keep of horse or horses; laundering, light, fuel, water, rents, taxes or in any other way, directly or indirectly, an estimate of value of such additional service to be given where the exact amount cannot be specified.

Mr. German—Order of the House for a return showing the total amount of money at present deposited in the High Court of Justice for Ontario; the style of court of each action or proceeding in which such money has been so paid in, together with the amount standing to the credit of each such action or proceeding; the names of all persons entitled to share in said money and the amount to which each of such persons is entitled.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—That this House doth approve of an agreement and license of occupation granted to Colonel W. T. Engledue of England et al, of certain locations in the Rainy River district, bearing date the 17th day of February last.

Mr. Dryden—Bill respecting shops and places other than factories.

Mr. Carnegie—Bill to amend the Game Act of 1896.

Mr. Langford—Enquiry of Ministry: Has W. H. Spencer, Esq., Police Magistrate of Muskoka, received an appointment under the Government in connection with the Algonquin Park? If so, what salary does he receive and what are his duties? Is he required to devote any time at the said park?

A Belt Killed Him.

Tottenham, Ont., March 15.—Samuel Fleming, jr., of Hockley, eight miles west of here, was to-day struck in the head by a belt which flew from the drive wheel of an engine in his saw mill, and died from the effects a few hours later. The deceased was a very industrious man of about 35 years.

THE DUTY ON COAL.

Hon. Mr. Fielding Makes an Important Statement to a Montreal Deputation.

Montreal, March 12.—(Special.)—Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, made an important statement to-day on the tariff question. He was waited upon at the Windsor Hotel by the representatives of the coal mining interest, who again urged upon him the necessity of maintaining, if not increasing, the present duty on coal. They urged that the duty should also apply to anthracite coal, which is now imported largely from the United States, without the payment of duty. In support of their contention they laid much stress upon the report that the United States Congress is about to largely increase the coal duty, with a view to excluding Canadian coal, a moderate quantity of which is now imported into the United States.

In the course of his reply to the deputation, Mr. Fielding made the following statement: "I have not felt at liberty to give any encouragement to the deputations which have from time to time waited upon me for the purpose of advocating a high duty on coal. It is well known that the tendency of the policy of the present Canadian Government has been towards a reduction of the duty rather than towards an increase. We still desire to move in that direction, unless events on the other side of the line make it impossible for us to do so. We recognize the fact that where our policy touches our trade relations with our neighbors to the south, it may have, to a considerable extent, to be influenced by their disposition towards us. I do not think that we ought to proceed on the assumption that it is the intention of the American Congress to increase the coal duty. You gentlemen in the coal trade are well aware of the fact, but it may not be so well known to the general public, that the present Canadian duty on coal is considerably higher than the American duty. This fact has already been used to our disadvantage at Washington. It has been advanced as a reason why the American duty should be raised. Is it not possible that this argument would be strengthened, and further harm done, by having the idea go abroad that we are determined to maintain our duty and even increase it? May not all good purposes be better served by having it known that we are disposed to proceed in the line of reduction if our neighbors are willing to do what is fair? If this be clearly understood, and if those in the United States who are interested in holding their Canadian market for coal bestir themsmelves, the increase of the American duty, which you regard as likely to occur, may not be made. If, however, your view is correct, and it turns out that the United Sta[...] duty is raised to a high-

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