

Fifth Parliament --- Third Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

THURSDAY, Feb. 25.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 p.m.

Mr. BAXTER presented the first report of the Committee on Printing.

Mr. MEREDITH asked why the report on the ventilation of schools had not been printed.

Hon. G. W. ROSS said that a work on the ventilation and architecture of schools was being prepared and would be distributed throughout the Province. This would give as much information as the report, and in a more popular form.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. Murray—Respecting the driving of sawlogs and other timber over lakes, rivers, and streams.

Mr. Murray—To amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Caldwell—For the protection of game and fur bearing animals.

Mr. Ferris—To amend the Division Courts Act.

Mr. Ferris—To amend the Registry Act.

Mr. Clancy—To amend the Municipal Act.

THE LICENSE LAWS.

Hon. A. S. HARDY, moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Liquor License Act, said:—We have for the past few years had so much legislation on the license question, that perhaps very little remains to be done. Many suggestions have been received by the Government through letters, addresses, and deputations. Some of these suggestions it has been found possible to adopt; others while good in themselves, appear better adapted to localities in which a prohibitory law is in force, than to one in which licenses are recognized, and recognized as a source of revenue. It may be stated in the first place that the clauses of this Bill do not affect those Counties in which the Scott Act is in force. The law provides that our license laws are suspended in such Counties during the period that the Scott Act is in force. Many complaints have been made that the Crooks Act

WAS NOT VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED,

and there are, or have been reasons which have tended to relax the stringency with which these laws should be enforced. One notable reason was the confusion created by a conflict of jurisdiction between the Dominion and Provincial Legislatures. I think I am not going beyond the mark in saying that much of the laxity which has existed during the past two years, was due to the passage of the McCarthy Act. It was asserted that the licenses issued by this Province were not good or valid, that the only valid law was that administered by the department at Ottawa. With such assertions made by the highest authorities, with different legislatures asserting conflicting claims, it was not to be wondered at that people became greatly confused and perplexed as to what the law really was; and this confusion was taken advantage of by those who desired that no law should be enforced again. It was perhaps assumed by some Provincial License Boards that if they refused licenses to certain applicants those applicants had only to appeal to another Board in order to get the license; and perhaps some Dominion Boards were influenced by a similar feeling about the Provincial Boards. The confusion and uncertainty extended even to the minds of the officers and the courts who were to administer the law. Happily that state of affairs has passed away, and the department over which I have the honour to preside has been endeavouring, since the decision was made known, to "tighten up" and to call upon the officers of the law to renewed activity, and as far as possible to carry out the somewhat stringent provisions of the Crooks Act, notably against illicit selling by unlicensed persons, and against selling on Sunday. I believe that public opinion, both in Scott Act counties and elsewhere, will go the full length of upholding the Government in seeing that nothing in reason shall be left undone to prevent sales by unlicensed dealers, and sales on Sunday, therefore the measure which I am introducing will aim at those two points.

Mr. MEREDITH—Including Scott Act counties?

Hon. A. S. HARDY—No; the law does not pretend to aim at Scott Act counties, for the reason that the courts have held that we have no power to legislate in respect to licenses or the enforcement of the liquor law where the Scott Act is in force; that virtually the Crooks Act is suspended where and while the Scott Act is in force.

A MEMBER—But it is in our power to