

wound up the debate in a short but spirited reply to the arguments and assertions which had come across the floor. When the division was taken the house by a vote of 54 to 33 decided in favor of the amendment submitted by Mr. Ross and against Mr. Marter's bill. The result will be the taking of a plebiscite on the question of prohibition and the submission to the proper judicial tribunal of a case to determine the jurisdiction of the legislature to deal finally with the liquor traffic.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

Mr. Bronson—Respecting houses of refuge for females.

Mr. Bishop—To amend the act to impose the tax on dogs.

Mr. Balfour, for Mr. Conmee—To amend the railway law of Ontario to provide proper qualifications for railway engineers, conductors and brakemen.

Mr. Balfour—To amend the municipal act.

Sir Oliver Mowat—For the relief of loan companies incorporated out of Ontario; also respecting polling places in the electoral district of Algoma West; also as to costs in appeals in prosecutions.

Mr. Evanturel—To amend the municipal act.

THE DEBATE RESUMED.

The debate upon the motion for the second reading of Mr. Marter's bill, and the amendments proposed by Mr. Balfour and Mr. Ross thereto, was resumed by Mr. Whitney. He said that the proposition embodied in Mr. Marter's bill was a plain one and should have been met in a fair spirit. If anyone had attempted to shirk his responsibilities it was not a member of the opposition. Mr. Balfour, instead of addressing himself to a discussion of the bill on its merits, had given ounces of merit and tons of abuse of people 300 miles away. If they had done wrong was that any reason they (hon. gentlemen opposite) should do likewise? Mr. Ross had leaped into the arena, carrying the banner of those who opposed anything like local option, and he took a side opposite to that which he had been advocating for a generation. Sir Oliver Mowat was not carrying out his duty to the people of this country that devolved upon him as the leader of the government and keeper of the conscience of the legislature. The people of the province would be satisfied with no shirking of the issue such as was proposed in Mr. Ross' amendment. Mr. Whitney condemned the administration of the license system and said that the government were harnessed to it by a chain of iron.

There was a considerable pause and the speaker asked if the question would "now be put." After the lapse of a minute or more Mr. Meredith arose and began to speak when the applause of his followers had died away. He said that the house had presented to it one of the most extraordinary spectacles that had ever been witnessed in the history of constitutional government. The people of the country had been very much moved on the question which was engaging the present attention of the legislature. A large portion of them had by an almost unanimous voice declared their judgment to be that if it was within the competence of the house it should proceed as far as it could in the direction of the prohibition of the liquor traffic. The leader of the house had made a declaration that it was not clear that the house had the jurisdiction which Mr. Marter desired that it should exercise, and he had given an assurance to those gentlemen who had laid their views before him that he was himself in favor of the passage of a prohibitory liquor law, and that if the jurisdiction of the house permitted he was, as far as the government was concerned, prepared to go as far as the house would go. Yet when Mr. Marter asked the house to pass this legislation and though the debate had been going on since 3 o'clock yesterday the attorney-general remained dumb. The attorney-general had very little respect for the judgment of the members of the house or the judgment of the people of the country when he refrained from giving the reasons that had brought him to the conclusion which he had arrived at. He (Mr. Meredith) did not intend to give a silent vote to shelter himself behind the position that might be taken. Though pronouncing upon the amendment of Mr. Ross in the negative he might leave the position in doubt that he occupied. He had not introduced the bill before the house. The party of which he had the honor to be a member had not adopted it as a part of its policy, but as a representative of the people and

MARTER BILL REJECTED.

Toronto, May 2.

Two giants of debate, Sir Oliver Mowat and Mr. Meredith, delivered themselves of their views on the temperance question to an intensely interested house today. Both the leaders spoke with much force in upholding the opposing contentions, but the attorney-general had on his side the advantage of a strong case, buttressed by the most unassailable arguments and irrefutable authorities. Added to this was the wright given to his words by his great knowledge of constitutional questions in the successful solution of which he has taken such a prominent part in the past. Mr. Tait