

The Standing Orders Committee held its first meeting this morning. Mr. O'Conner (South Bruce) was re-elected Chairman, and a few bills were pronounced correct in form and favorably reported upon. These were Mr. Joseph Tait's bill to amend the act incorporating the People's Life Insurance Company, Mr. Paton's bill to consolidate the railway debenture debt of the Township of Flos, Mr. E. F. Clarke's bill respecting the congregation of the Holy Blossom, and the bill relating to Beechwood Cemetery.

A REQUEST FROM THE TEMPLARS.

At 3.30 p.m. a deputation from the Grand Council of the Royal Templars, consisting of Rev. A. M. Phillips, Dr. D. Robertson, ex-M.P., Milton, and Mr. W. W. Buchanan of The Templar, Hamilton, called upon the Government. They were received in the Council chamber by Sir Oliver Mowat and Hon. Messrs. Hardy, Harcourt, Ross, Dryden and Bronson, while among the members present were Messrs. Tait, Davis, Balfour, Charlton, Field and McKay (Oxford).

The deputation was introduced by Dr. Robertson, and Mr. Buchanan laid the requests of the Grand Council before the Cabinet. He explained that though the deputation was small it was representative of the Provincial body of the Templars, which in ten years has increased to a membership of 15,000. They came from the annual convention of the order, in which the legislative and political condition of the country had been discussed at much length. The members of the convention had expressed themselves as greatly pleased and gratified at the position assumed by the Ontario Government. Bearing in mind the law's delays, and as an earnest of good things to come, the convention was, however, anxious to see certain necessary reforms made in the meantime in the license law during the present session. The changes which the Grand Council had united upon requesting were as follows:—

(a) That every license shall be considered as a new one, and that before any license be granted a petition in its favor signed by a majority of the electors of the polling subdivision in which it is proposed to establish the license shall be necessary.

(b) That no liquor shall be allowed to be consumed upon the licensed premises.

(c) That the proportion of licenses to the population shall not be more than two for the first thousand of population, and one for each additional 800.

The first provision, Mr. Buchanan said, they did not consider as sweeping; it is in line with the spirit of the act now in force; the principle of the will of the people in the locality in which the license is to be established should be regarded. The second provision, Mr. Buchanan went on, is similar to that contained in the license law of Nova Scotia. It is aimed at the consumption of liquor in the barrooms. Notwithstanding some opinions to the contrary, he thought it a success in Nova Scotia. The chief utility would be in putting down the habit of treating. The third provision he thought fully in accord with the trend of public sentiment, and he pointed out that this proportion is often largely exceeded; Toronto, for instance, has one license to every 1,300 inhabitants, and in Hamilton until recently the number had been very large. The whole three propositions he considered to be quite in line with the spirit of the Government legislation.

Rev. A. M. Phillips then spoke. He emphasized the principle of regarding the renewal of a license as on the same footing as a new license. The sale of liquor, he held, is in the nature of a contract whereby a man sells liquor by permission of the people of the locality for a year. When the period has elapsed the people should have full power of terminating the agreement. As for the clause relating to consumption on the premises, Mr. Phillips held that it was an effort to reduce the treating system. The object, he explained, was not to prohibit the consumption of the liquor in the same building, but in the barroom; the person buying the liquor would be obliged to drink it in another room, and put himself in some measure in the position of a guest of the house.

It has worked in Nova Scotia for six years, and has satisfied the temperance men there; the traffic has been driven into Halifax, and even there the temperance men are better satisfied than they were before. The limitation of the licenses Rev. Mr. Phillips regarded simply as a step along the lines followed by the Government in the past and promised by it for the future.

Sir Oliver Mowat replied that he and his colleagues of the Cabinet had not understood that any further steps than those they had already taken were desired by the temperance workers, and that, consequently, they had not given the matter any consideration. The changes proposed by them would be considered in Council; further than that he was not prepared to say at present.

The deputation thanked the Cabinet and withdrew.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Barr (Dufferin)—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Barr (Dufferin)—Bill to amend the assessment act.

Mr. Stratton—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Stratton—Bill to amend the assessment act.

Mr. Allan—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Waters—Bill to amend the land surveyors act.

Mr. Monk—Bill to facilitate the registry of mortgages and to reduce the expenses thereof.

Mr. Monk—Bill to amend the assessment act.

Mr. Garrow—Bill to amend the Ontario election act.

Mr. Garrow—Bill respecting executions.

Mr. Tait—Bill respecting stationary engineers.

Mr. Bishop—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Glendinning—Bill to amend the insurance corporations act.

Mr. Barr (Dufferin) Return showing the number of inquests held during the last three years on the death of persons committed for vagrancy in the gaols, prisons, House of Correction, lock-up houses and Houses of Industry, and the cost in connection with the holding of said inquests.

Mr. Meredith—Return of all correspondence and reports with regard to the application or claim of Samuel Speckwell for a gratuity or allowance on his ceasing to be employed in the public service of the Province.

Mr. Clarke (Toronto)—Return of the re-

port made to the Government in 1893 by Mr. J. K. Stewart, Provincial Inspector of Licenses, respecting the operation of the law in the City of Hamilton, and the accommodation provided by the places licensed by the said city.

Mr. Wood (Hastings)—Return of all correspondence with the Crown Lands Department in connection with an application for a supply of timber for a local saw mill in the Township of Tyendinaga, in the County of Hastings, by Mr. Fraser Chisholm of the said township.

Mr. Tait's proposed bill regarding the stationary engineers is designed to enforce more rigidly the employment of properly qualified persons for such work as is done by this class of engineers.