

machinery for partizan purposes. He felt sure that every hon. gentleman who gave his candid opinion would say that the inspectors throughout the country use their influence for the Government. Mr. Marter referred to the recent libel suit in Halton County, where a Presbyterian minister had been sued for libel, and added that the parties to it were all Reformers. The present administration of the law, he claimed, also resulted in a lax enforcement of it, and in that contention, he said, he was backed by the temperance organizations of the country. The temperance deputation which recently waited on the Government represented one of the largest of the temperance bodies in the country, and they asked for a better enforcement of the act, and emphasized the growing laxity of its administration. Rev. Wm. Kettlewell, a leading member of the deputation, had said he could not defend the Government, although a friend of it.

Mr. Marter next referred to the granting of a license on Toronto Island. He said that it had been granted in spite of many temperance deputations and editorials in *The Globe*. Sir Oliver's reply to the deputation had been that he had been told there was less liquor now sold on the Island than formerly. If that be so, Mr. Marter argued, was not the Government to blame for its illegal sale? The commissioners in granting a license must have been acting under the instructions of the Government. The Province had asked for prohibition by 80,000 majority, and the people who want prohibition must surely want a good enforcement of the act. Mr. Marter also quoted the words of Rev. Mr. Van Wyck of Hamilton when he addressed the Government. At 6 o'clock he said he could not conclude for half an hour, and the House rose.

EVENING SESSION.

When the House resumed shortly after 8 o'clock Mr. Marter continued his speech. He said that the License Commissioners did not act in the interest of the people but in the interest of those who appointed them. The deputation he had referred to had acted in the direction they believed to be in the best interests of the people, namely, to advance the cause of temperance. When actuated by such motives they were surely worthy of every respect and consideration from the Government. Several associations of Christian Endeavorers, Royal Templars and ministers in London had passed a resolution that the License Commissioners had not the confidence of the people. Similar resolutions had also been passed in East Algoma. Mr. Marter next stated that there was a bar at the Hamilton race track without a license.

Hon. Mr. Gibson—Is there one at Toronto?

Mr. Marter—I don't know. It does not matter if there is one in Hamilton.

Mr. Gibson—Well, there is not one at Hamilton.

Mr. Marter—Then you deny this statement?

Mr. Gibson—Yes.

Mr. Marter—Well, I won't vouch for my authority personally. I saw it in the papers. Continuing, Mr. Marter referred to Justice Robertson's judgment in the East Kent case, where his Lordship had criticized the License Department.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt—How old is that judgment?

Mr. Marter—I don't know.

Mr. Harcourt—It is eight years old. (Government applause.)

Proceeding, Mr. Marter said that if the licensing was in the trust of the County Judge neither, one party nor the other would gain. He thought that if every member voted irrespective of party they would support his amendment.

MR. HARCOURT'S ANSWER.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt replied. After remarking that Mr. Marter had presented his case with more moderation than he had at times shown, the Provincial Treasurer observed that hon. gentlemen ignored what all else admitted, the difficulty of enforcing all laws to restrain the liquor traffic. All laws are disobeyed, and it would be arrant nonsense to blame the Police Magistrates, detectives and Justices of the Peace for that. Yet that was the ground taken by hon. gentlemen opposite with regard to infractions of the license law. When all the facts were known everyone not a politician with a political object to serve would admit that these officials had done their best. The cus-

toms laws were broken daily, so were the excise laws, and yet no one blamed the customs and excise officers for that. He was there to maintain with all confidence that in no Province is the license law better observed than in Ontario, that in none of the United States are the license laws more carefully observed, while in Great Britain there is no pretence that the license laws are observed with anything like the care, precision and good results attained in Ontario.

Is there not less drunkenness this year, this moment, than there was some time ago? Mr. Harcourt went on to ask. Has not great progress been made in temperance sentiment in the past few years? Are not the hotels of a higher standard than ever before? Was there not a process of weeding going on, a sort of survival of the fittest? Mr. Harcourt then cited the statement made by a member of an important deputation of commercial travellers which recently called upon the Government, that he had had much experience, and had found that, class for class, the hotels of Ontario are superior to those of any State of the Union. (Applause.)

GOOD WORK DONE.

Then Mr. Harcourt dealt with the question of the number of licenses, pointing out that while it was open to argument as to whether the interests of temperance would be advanced by a too rapid diminution of the number of licenses, yet much had been accomplished in that direction. In 1890 there were 3,523 licenses; in 1891, 3,444; in 1892, 3,369, and in 1893, 3,276, a decrease of 247 in four short years. (Applause.) That showed that the failures were being weeded out of the business, and that year by year the class of men in the business was improving. They could not measure the efficiency of the discharge of duty by the commissioners by the number of convictions, for where an official was known to be zealous there would be fewer infractions of the law and therefore fewer convictions. Mr. Harcourt then pointed out that Mr. Marter was unable to adduce any instances of disregard of duty on the part of officials later than Mr. Justice Robertson's judgment of eight years ago; that was the only instance he could find, and it was incorrectly cited. The facts were that immediately upon Justice Robertson giving out that judgment the two License Commissioners most blameworthy were dropped from the lists—(applause)—and that the services of the third were not long afterwards dispensed with. Let his hon. friends send to the Government the name of any License Commissioner who was charged with misconduct, and an investigation would be ordered within 48 hours. (Applause.) He had examined carefully the personnel of the inspectors in the 92 districts, and asserted with confidence that the 270 or 280 inspectors were not only men vastly superior to the average, but frequently had been honored by the people with the highest local offices in their gift. (Applause.) Outside of the Island license question, on which he would touch soon, had Mr. Marter or Mr. Crawford anything against the Toronto License Commissioners, whose work they should know? Even if the Opposition could prove that ten out of the 270 License Commissioners had committed grave errors of judgment, that was not making out a strong case against the Government. (Applause.) Let the hon. gentlemen opposite select any 270 officials of any Government and subject them to the severe scrutiny bestowed on the License Commissioners by Mr. Marter, and see if more than ten would not be found blameworthy. (Applause.) Mr. Marter wanted to see the County Judges on the License Board, but not a day passed without some judgment of some County Judge being appealed against and reversed. (Applause.) How idle it was, then, to find fault with a license inspector, a layman not versed in the law, to misinterpret some clause of the license law, which is no simpler than any other law.

STATEMENTS CORRECTED.

Mr. Harcourt then dealt with the statements made by the deputation to which Mr. Marter had referred, and roused applause by pointing out that Mr. Kettlewell, whose every word of blame for the Government had been reported by *The Templar*, had also said that he deemed it his duty to bear testimony to the excellent character and zeal of the License Commissioners in the district in which he himself lived; but *The Templar* had left that