

way track, and would not be the best man to judge as to whether a license was or was not needed in a certain place. Another objection was that an appeal lies from a conviction by a Magistrate under the license law to the County Judge; that would make the two positions incompatible. Again, the County Judge is empowered to sit in judgment on the license commissioners and to revoke licenses they grant improperly; that would mean an appeal from the County Judge to the County Judge. Once more, the trial of license inspectors charged with malfeasance in office takes place before the County Judge. As a matter of law the County Judge was almost disqualified from holding such a position.

As for Wardens and Mayors, they might be owners of large amounts of personal or real property whose value depended on the granting of a license. Suppose a Warden to be the owner of a hotel property, would he not be placed in a position where his interests might clash with his duty? Again, in a city a brewer might become Mayor; how many licenses would there be on Toronto Island under such circumstances? There were several licenses granted for the Island under the McCarthy act, Mr. Ross reminded the House.

This was a most fallacious and dangerous proposition, Mr. Ross contended in closing, and he recapitulated his arguments briefly, incidentally raising the point that the proposed scheme could not apply to the unorganized districts, which stand peculiarly in need of vigilant administration. The Province had increased in sobriety and temperance, the standard of the hotels had improved, the number of them had decreased, during the administration by the Government of the present system, and there was no demand for the change. (Applause.)

MR. HOWLAND'S SPEECH.

Mr. Howland followed Hon. Mr. Ross in a brief speech. He said he was glad to see the Minister of Education in an improved physical condition and he had treated the subject in a state approaching exhilaration. Proceeding, Mr. Howland said he thought much evidence could be produced against license commissioners as partizans. The previous speaker had offered to have a committee appointed, but he thought committees were always apt to reflect the disposition of the governing majority of the House. The Minister of Education had said that the Warden or Reeve of a municipality might be a brewer. A license commissioner, also, the speaker contended, might have an indirect interest in the granting of a license. His brother or cousin or some such relative might have an interest in property which would be increased in value by the granting of a license.

MR. E. J. DAVIS.

Mr. E. J. Davis followed Mr. Howland in an excellent speech. Under the present system, he said, the Government assumes all the responsibility for the administration of the law, and if mistakes are made can remove the commissioners at once, and there was abundant evidence that the system worked well. The proposed commission would be much more expensive. At present the commissioners work without fee, but the County Judge would naturally expect adequate remuneration. Then the proposed board would be hard to get at. Now, when complaints are made the board meets usually in the same place to go into the matter. There being only one board for the entire county, travelling expenses would be higher. The proposed board would have a divided responsibility, which usually meant more responsibility. Should such a shocking thing occur as the malfeasance of the County Judge, a much more difficult process would be needed to get rid of him, while the Government now can take summary action. Then the Wardens could be practically irresponsible, as they were elected in January and the licenses are granted in May, so that next February or March when the House reassembled a new Warden would be elected. For these reasons he would oppose the amendment.

MR. MAGWOOD'S SPEECH.

Mr. Magwood thought that a good many of the members on the Government side owed their position to the work done by the officials appointed by the present Government. The commissioners, he declared, were prepared to go from one end of the Province to

the other if necessary in order to serve the ends of the party, and were the strongest political dealers in the country. Some of the commissioners, he alleged, had been asked to give up their positions when they did not do political work. He thought it was a slap in the face for every Warden in the Province for the Government to say they must not be trusted as license commissioners. He did not think there had ever been a session of the Legislature in which a deputation of temperance people had not come and asked for amendments to the license law. In concluding, Mr. Magwood expressed the opinion that the people of the Province would support the method of appointing commissioners proposed by the leader of the Opposition.

This concluded the debate. Mr. Marter spoke briefly, contending that the report of his speech, after the London election, from which Mr. Ross had read, was not the same as that given by The Globe, which, he said, was correct.

THE DIVISION.

The division was taken at 11 p.m. and resulted as follows:—

Yeas—Beatty (Leeds), Bennett, Brower, Carnegie, Crawford, Currie, Dynes, Fallis, Gamey, Haycock, Howland, Kerns, Kidd, Langford, Little, McCalum, McDonald, McLaren, McNaughton, McNeil, McNichol, Magwood, Marter, Meacham, Preston, Reid (Addington), Ryerson, St. John, Shore, Tucker, Willoughby—31.

Nays—Barr, Baxter, Beatty (Parry Sound), Biggar, Blezard, Burt, Campbell, Carpenter, Chapple, Charlton, Cleland, Craig, Dana, Davis, Dickenson, Dryden, Farwell, Ferguson, Field, Flatt, German, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Harcourt, Hardy, Harty, McKay (Oxford), McKay (Victoria), McKee, McLean, McNish, Middleton, Moore, Mowat, Mutrie, Pardo, Paton, Richardson, Robertson, Robillard, Ross, Smith, Taylor, Truax—44.

Pairs—Messrs. Loughrin and Bush, Conmee and Miscampbell, Hobbs and Gurd, O'Keefe and Matheson, Garrow and Hiscott, Bronson and Whitney, Stratton and Reid (Durham), Evanturel and Haggerty.

The customary votes in supply were then passed and the House adjourned at 11.15 p.m.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt introduced today a bill to make further provision for the payment of succession duties in certain cases. This bill is intended to prevent evasions of the act by disposing of the property liable to duty in the lifetime of the owner, and makes provision to recover the duty where no executor or administrator can be made accountable, and empowers the Provincial Treasurer to commute the duty payable on any future estate for a present sum, and provides for the payment of duties upon annuities in four equal payments.

Mr. St. John is introducing a bill to amend the assessment act. It provides that where taxes are payable by instalments, and 5 per cent. is added on default of payment of any instalment, no further percentage is to be added for ten months from the time the percentage became due, and thereafter one-half of 1 per cent. is to be added for every month or portion of a month during which such default continues, and in other municipalities one-half of 1 per cent. for every month or portion of a month during which taxes remain unpaid.

Mr. St. John is also bringing in a bill to amend the municipal act, which enables the Councils of incorporated villages to pass by-laws regulating and licensing hawkers and pedlars.

Another bill brought in by Mr. St. John is to amend the registry act by enacting that assessors are to have the right to inspect without charge plans in the Registry Office, and persons registering plans are to notify the clerk of the local municipality of such registration.

ASSESSMENT CHANGES.

Dr. Ryerson has brought in a bill to amend the assessment act. It gives the assessor power to require merchants to give him a sworn statement of the value of their personal property, showing the gross value of the property and the gross amount of indebtedness owing in respect thereof. It provides that if in balancing the books on the first day of May it appears that there are arrears of taxes due on any parcel of land, the Treasurer is to add