

Continuing, Mr. Graham said he had listened to the hon. member for South Toronto, an eminent member of the legal profession, upon the constable vote question, and the hon. gentleman walked up on one side and down the other on the argument and had not touched it at all. (Applause.) He had not expressed any opinion; he dare not express an opinion on the subject; the only legal opinion upon the question that has been expressed during the debate was that given by the hon. member for West Huron. With reference to the condemnation of the Government for selling the timber of the Province, he quoted the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Beatty), who had declared that all the timber left under the control of the Government were a few patches of burnt timber. The Government would be neglecting its duty had it not realized the value upon the timber resources before it was all burnt or blown down. (Applause.) But the Government had gone further, and had inaugurated a system of reforestry by which the timber supply will be perpetuated. Hon. gentlemen opposite were horrified that any words in disparagement of the Judges should be uttered; they were readers and supporters of *The Mail*, which had only recently referred to Mr. Justice Lister as "Fighting Jim."

The Liquor Vote.

He had been amused, and the hon. member for Dundas, the leader of the Opposition, must have laughed in his sleeve, too, when he stated that the Government had enjoyed the support of the solid liquor interest, knowing that in the County of Dundas all the hotelkeepers had received a circular from the Secretary of the License Holders' Protective Association informing them that the hon. gentleman was deserting of their support, as he was in favor of their trade. (Government cheers.) That being true, it was astounding that the hon. gentleman who has the honor of leading nearly one-half of the House would rise in his place, knowing that this influence was at work in his own constituency, and make such a statement. (Applause.)

Mr. Whitney—How did the vote go in Brantford?

The Attorney-General—Three out of nineteen, not more, and probably not that many. (Government cheers.)

Continuing, Mr. Graham, in further proof of his assertions, pointed out that the petition against his own election was signed by a young man who dispenses liquid refreshment behind the bar of a leading hotel. The hon. leader of the Opposition had made a woful blunder when he charged that this Government had the liquor vote, and for the information of the House he would read the circular which was given to every hotelkeeper in the County of Dundas.

The letter, which was dated Toronto, January 25, 1898, and addressed to the local Secretary of the License Holders' Association in Dundas (Mr. Whitney's riding), was headed "Strictly confidential" and read as follows:—

"Dear sir,—I enclose you a copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on January 13, 1898.

"Common gratitude, as well as sound policy, dictates that WE SHOULD STAND BY THOSE THAT STAND BY US. This is the principle which was laid down when this association was first formed and is reiterated again by your Executive.

"In so far as your riding is concerned the present member voted in favor of the trade and against municipal control, and it is therefore unnecessary that the questions should be submitted to him, because it would be unwise to embarrass him in his campaign, and we know his friendly attitude to the trade.

"In connection with the third resolution extra expense will be incurred in travelling and other obvious expenses, and it is hoped that each local association will, if possible, do something, be it ever so little, in connection with this, as a campaign cannot be carried on without funds.

"Regarding the fourth resolution, do not fail to have your Dominion member interviewed and let me have his reply at the very earliest opportunity.

"Above all things it is necessary that we should act with prudence, not letting our right hand know what our left is doing. There is no necessity to have our action MADE PUBLIC. Yours very truly, E. Dickie, Secretary."

Accompanying the circular was a copy of the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ontario License Holders' Protective Association held in the City of Toronto on Thursday, January 13, 1898, which was marked "Private and confidential." The preamble sets forth that "as the forthcoming elections to the Legislative Assembly are fraught with such importance to the liquor trade of this Province, your Executive adopted the following resolutions, believing that the carrying out of the same will secure for the trade protection for their rights in the new Legislature," and impressed upon the local associations the extreme importance of carrying out the resolutions. The vote in the Legislature on April 10, 1897, on the question of municipal control of the hours of closing and opening, it is pointed out, gave a sure means of settling who were the friends and who the enemies of the trade in the Legislature, and should be taken as the basis of the association's action in the support of candidates. The resolutions are to the following effect:—(1) All candidates to have presented them the questions adopted at the Hamilton convention except in constituencies where the old members voted against the municipal control of the hours of opening and closing, in which cases neither of the candidates is to be questioned, but the trade shall give their undivided support to the old member. (2) The questions to be submitted to said candidates prior to February 1, and their answers to be forwarded to the Secretary in Toronto. (3) Each local association to make a special assessment, which will be used in meeting extra expenses incurred in connection with the campaign. (4) That each local as-