

LICENSED HOTELS MERELY SALOONS.

The Allegation of Dr. Barr in the
Ontario Legislature.

STATUTE LABOR'S DECLINE.

Annual Report on Provincial
Good Roads Movement.

Temperance Measure Before Liberal
Caucus To-day—The Huron Re-
gistrarship—New Power for To-
ronto University Senate.

The Legislature was in session for only fifteen minutes yesterday afternoon. There was barely a quorum of members present, and none of those having private or public bills were prepared to go on with them.

A Liberal caucus will be held this morning, when Premier Ross will outline his temperance measure. The proposals of the Government in regard to the Algoma Central Railway guarantee and certain railway subsidies will also be considered.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt will this week introduce a bill giving the Senate of Toronto University power to strike from the rolls any graduates convicted on a criminal charge. This power has been possessed by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge for a number of years, and is being conferred on the Toronto University authorities at the request of the senate of that institution.

Hotels Merely Salons ?

Dr. Barr moved for a return showing the number of saloon licenses in the cities and towns of the Province during 1902 and 1903, and also the number of wholesale licenses in rural municipalities. In doing so he said that it was a well-known fact that many licensed hotels were nothing more than saloons, for they had no accommodation for either bed or board. He threw out this as a hint to whoever might have in charge the temperance bill. He also declared that in Ontario licenses were becoming franchises worth fabulous amounts.

Hon. Mr. Stratton said the department would readily produce the required official information. He might say, however, that no saloon license had been granted since 1900. In the act of 1899 abolishing the issue of saloon licenses there was a provision, however, allowing three existing licenses, that perhaps might be termed saloon licenses, to be continued. These were at the railway stations at Toronto, Hamilton and London. He was not aware that any licenses had been granted to hotels which had not the necessary qualifications, and if Dr. Barr or anyone else knew of such cases the department would be glad to be notified, and would at once see that the law was complied with or the license withdrawn. In 1901 there were six wholesale licenses, in 1902 five and in 1903 six.

Good Roads Report.

Mr. Stratton presented the eighth annual report of the Commissioner of Highways for 1903. After reviewing the history and progress of the good

roads movement, the Commissioner adds:—"The spirit of most municipal legislation has been permissive rather than compulsory, and it is doubtful if it would yet be in the best interest of road improvements to make any exception as regards statute labor, in spite of its many unfair features. Instead, by carrying on a campaign of education, the people will better understand the reason for a change, and will undertake it with a greater willingness to make the new methods a success. The best system that can be devised for making and repairing roads may be injurious rather than beneficial if it is not faithfully and intelligently carried into effect. To insure the success of new methods it is necessary that at least the interest and enthusiasm of a certain portion of the people be first aroused." The Commissioner stated that by the end of 1902 statute labor was abolished or commuted in 120 townships.

Huron Registrarship.

Mr. Stratton laid on the table correspondence in relation to the appointment of William Coats as Registrar of the County of Huron. Mr. Coats wrote on January 9, 1899, to Hon. A. S. Hardy, applying for the position of Registrar, rendered vacant through the death of A. L. Gibson. Mr. Robert Holmes, M.P. for West Huron, wrote from Ottawa, March 27, 1899, to Hon. A. S. Hardy, stating that the appointment of Mr. Coats would give universal satisfaction to the West Riding at any rate, and also in other portions of the county. He added that Mr. Coats had worked hard for the party, and that it was due to his efforts, in part at least, that the Liberals had been able to hold West Huron. The appointment would be approved of by Conservatives as well as Liberals. Mr. James Fair of Clinton wrote on January 12, 1899, to Hon. A. S. Hardy recommending Mr. Coats. Mr. Coats wrote on February 27, 1902, to Hon. G. W. Ross to correct an impression that he was an applicant for the Postmastership. Mr. Holmes had offered it, but the position would not suit him, "and," said Mr. Coats, "I do not think that simply because that position is vacant it should prejudice my claim on the other in any way." He added that when the Registrarship was vacant before he was an applicant, and, though he was disappointed at not receiving it, yet this did not make the slightest difference in his efforts on behalf of the party. In this Mr. Garrow would bear him out. Mr. Ross wrote on March 1, 1902, to Mr. Coats:—"I had a conversation with Mr. Garrow two or three times within the last week or so. Next week, or at least as soon as the session is over, we intend to take up the vacancy in Huron, and I hope it may be filled."