

# OLD GOVERNMENT WAS ON GUARD.

## Light on Boundary Extension Negotiations.

## CHANGES IN LICENSE ACT.

## Mr. Preston's Bright Speech on the Address.

## Dr. Smellie, Lake of the Woods and Fort William, an Advocate of Women's Suffrage—Dr. Lewis Moves the Ad- journment.

The session of the Legislature was quite brief yesterday afternoon, the debate on the address being continued by one speaker on either side of the House. Mr. Preston, for the Opposition, would not permit the Government to claim credit for the proposed boundary extension of Ontario, a matter which had been taken up by Mr. Hardy and continued by Mr. Ross. He thought the Government should at least make a trial of the policy of keeping new Ontario free of liquor licenses. Dr. Smellie was not very well heard. He criticized the educational policy, which neglected essentials for accomplishments. Woman's suffrage found its earliest exponent this session in Dr. Smellie, whose address was marked with a pleasant humor and possessed a literary flavor.

### Minor Amendments to Liquor Act.

Hon. Mr. Hanna, in reply to Mr. Harcourt, said: "It is the intention of the Government to introduce at this session some minor amendments to the act respecting the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors."

### An American Expert.

Hon. Mr. Hanna, replying to Mr. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie), said: "The services of L. E. Thorne have been engaged for a temporary period for special work for which he is specially qualified. It includes a report on the various industries carried on at the Central Prison, and the installment of a system of accounting by the various institutions in the Provincial Secretary's Department, whereby the Minister in charge will have a comparative monthly statement covering the work of the department, and the cost thereof classified under the various heads of expenditure. Mr. Thorne resides at the city of Port Huron. He is auditor for the Port Huron Engine & Thrasher Company and the Canadian Port Huron Engine & Thrasher Company of Winnipeg, and other companies associated with them in the manufacture and sale of agricultural implements and thrashing machinery. The system that is being installed can readily be carried on by the present staff."

Mr. Hanna added, for the benefit of some newspapers which were disturbed about the matter, that Mr. Thorne was not and never had been in the employment of the Standard Oil Company.

### Mr. Preston Resumes Debate.

Mr. Preston (South Brant), in resuming the debate on the address said that Downey, the member for South Wellington, had said in seconding the motion that the Conservative Government would give the people of Ontario freedom, but he (the speaker) wanted to know if the people had not by reason

of the splendid battles won by the Liberals gained a measure of freedom unparalleled in any other quarter of the globe. The Liberal party, it was true, had been defeated at the last election, and for that many reasons might be advanced. They were not, however, discouraged, and would be found fighting the battles of the people as in other days. Proceeding, he congratulated Premier Whitney upon his accession to power at an age when some people might whisper the word "chloroform." (Laughter.) Mr. Preston briefly reviewed the varying attitude of the present Government, when in Opposition, on several questions of policy, such as those of railway taxation and Niagara Falls power. On the succession duties policy being advanced by the late Government, the present Provincial Treasurer, he said, had moved a resolution that, if adopted, would have cut the duties in half. In January and February those duties had brought to the Province \$175,000. Was the Treasurer now in favor of a reduction?

Hon. Mr. Matheson—It was not to cut in half; it was to grade the duties. (Government applause.)

Mr. Preston—I understand the result would have been to cut the duties in half. (Opposition applause.) He hoped the Government would continue to follow the policy adopted by the late Government in regard to improved highways, the development of new Ontario, and would insist that supplies furnished for public works should bear the words "made in Canada."

### Extension of the Boundaries.

Referring to the paragraph in the speech from the throne relative to the extension of Ontario's boundaries, Mr. Preston said he understood this was not a new matter. Negotiations had been entered upon, he understood, as far back as the late Premier Hardy's time, and had been continued by former Premier Ross with the knowledge of his Cabinet. These negotiations, he believed, had gone so far that the line of Ontario's proposed new boundary was a matter of discussion between representatives of the Ontario and Dominion Governments. It should be borne in mind that if the Liberal Government of Ontario had not in the past resisted the efforts of Sir John Macdonald to override Provincial rights Ontario could not even be making the present application for extension. The Conservative party in Ontario must bear a measure of responsibility in that respect because they had approved of Sir John's attempted encroachments. He hoped the negotiations would be so conducted as to insure of Ontario obtaining full control, without question, not only of the land, but of the minerals, and all else therein, in any share of the Keewatin district that may be apportioned to her.

### The Numbered Ballot.

Mr. Preston briefly and interestingly outlined the evolution of the ballot in Britain and Ontario. So far as the numbered ballot was concerned, while willing that it should go, he did not believe it could be shown that its secrecy had been violated in Ontario.

The Premier said he thought hon. gentlemen on the Government benches would be able to say during the debate they had held proofs and evidences of examinations of numbered ballots, and the results of such examinations.

Mr. Preston, while prepared to accept the Premier's statement, was not aware that the secrecy of the ballot had been violated. It was true, he held, that it guarded to a certain extent against forgery, and was useful for a scrutiny, of which the Government was prepared to take advantage, as in the Prince Edward Island case. Continuing, he expressed regret that no labor legislation had been foreshadowed, dealt concisely with the attitude of the Premier and the Opposition on the temperance question, and hoped the promise of an enforcement of the present law would be kept. Incidentally he urged that the proposal of not issuing licenses in the unorganized portions of new Ontario be given a trial.

The Premier said such a plan could only last while the districts were unor-

ganized.

Mr. Preston urged that it would at least constitute a measure of Government control, and he thought that it should be tried. He also expressed a wish to know what instructions had been given to gentlemen responsible for nominations of license inspectors and commissioners to see that the right class of men were secured in accordance with the Government's promises.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said the instructions were sent out in printed circular form, and he would be glad to introduce them into the House.

Mr. Preston concluded with the hope that, regardless of party differences, all would join in the work of advancing the interests and progress of the Province.

### Dr. Smellie's Education Plea.

Dr. Smellie (Lake of the Woods) said the House would find it necessary to give very careful attention to the proposed amendments to the education acts. The number of studies should be lessened and greater proficiency sought in those which remained. Nature study was very well, but he did not consider it profitable where scholars were unable to write their names or add up a single column. The high schools were still worse, and the teachers piled up intolerable burdens on the shoulders of the scholars. He had been struck by the efforts of parents to build schools in his constituency, many denying themselves for this purpose. The House should not grudge a small grant to such schools, where also it was difficult to get teachers to go. He suggested the advisability of assisting struggling schools of this nature.

The necessity of good roads leading to the mining districts led to his proposal to make a grant sufficient to develop a complete road system in new Ontario. Instead of making innumerable bites of a cherry he considered this a more desirable policy. It would tend to discourage the migration westward, and thickly and fully settle the new Ontario lands. He compared this part of the Province under the late Government to Finland, characterizing the domination of "heelers" as intolerable.

### Woman Suffrage.

Mr. Smellie regretted that nothing in the speech gave him an opportunity to speak on female suffrage, but he aroused applause by expressing his indignation that a drunken lout should have more political influence than an intelligent and industrious woman. He trusted that before many years women would be entitled to vote on the same terms as men.

Dr. Lewis (Duffelin) moved the adjournment of the debate until to-day.

The House then adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Mr. C. M. Bowman (North Bruce) will probably be asked to accept the position of Whip for the Opposition, and Mr. A. Hislop (East Huron) has been mentioned as second Whip.

### Notices of Motion.

Mr. Jessop—For an order of the House for a return of all correspondence between the Sheriff of the county of Lincoln and the late Government or any member thereof re the appointment of George Bush as jailor for the county of Lincoln.

Mr. Torrance—Of a bill to amend the municipal act.

### Shooting Club Wants Preserve.

Hon. J. S. Hendrie and Mr. H. G. Carscallen introduced a deputation to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, respecting a number of Hamilton and Toronto gentlemen interested in a shooting club, which desires to obtain possession of 28 lots in the township of Cardwell, Muskoka, for the purposes of a shooting and fishing preserve. The lots are utterly unfitted for agriculture, and are at present held under license by the Rathbun interests of Deseronto, the license expiring at the end of next month. The pine has been cleared off, and the oak and hemlock bark, which has become valuable, it is feared, may be removed. To prevent this, and the consequent desolation of the district, the club wants