

the Treasurer of the Province—who was sent to England to negotiate. The hon. leader of the Opposition said within half an hour that he had never heard of it.

Hon. Mr. Ross—I was wrong about that.

Premier Whitney—Oh, of course. I expected that. The Premier proceeded to state that stories were afloat of inquiries as to what commission the officials of the Province could get. He had heard complaints of the conduct of the hon. member, and the attitude he took towards financial authorities there. The incident showed the method by which the public business of the Province was conducted by hon. gentlemen. He first made a written agreement that the negotiations then and thereafter be conducted by Coates, and then says, because he said something verbally it affected the bonds he signed. Secondly, because we did not sell the bonds in Canada after he had taken such steps as he could to prevent it he attacks us. It was not a pleasant spectacle, and he hoped it would be the last of the series. He did not suppose further conduct of the kind would be tolerated by the public.

Having moved the adjournment of the debate, Premier Whitney moved the adjournment of the House at 11.30.

#### Spoke of the Liquor Bill.

In moving the second reading of the bill to amend the liquor license law Hon. Mr. Hanna said certain representations had been made during the week. He had already explained that the clause about selling liquor to hotel guests on Sunday was not a part of the bill, although Ontario was the only place where it was prohibited. A clause likely to work hardship was that prohibiting the canvass for orders by holders of retail licenses. It was a long-established custom, but as a matter of strict legal right was not definitely settled by the courts. Its application to wholesale licenses was surrounded with constitutional difficulty, and he had not been able to give it sufficient attention.

#### Hon. Mr. Ross on the Act.

Hon. Mr. Ross desired to concentrate debate on the clauses to which objection was taken. He was glad to notice it was not proposed to open the door to the sale of liquor on Sundays to guests at hotels. With regard to local option, he thought a three-year term was not too short. He objected to fixed local option on both sides. It might seem unfair, but they were not there to make it easy for the traffic or to enable it to continue. There should be no discharge for those engaged in it, but constant pressure to remove it by every possible means. Notice was given the liquor dealers to quit at the end of every year, and there could be no harm from engaging in an agitation at the end of the year for local option. He was quite agreeable to the three-year limit, which might be taken as a breathing spell. He would, however, still insist with regard to the 60 per cent. clause. The Provincial Secretary sought to justify himself by the referendum vote, but the two cases were entirely different. Prohibition for Ontario and local option were different propositions altogether, and if placed in the same position he would do the same thing again as in 1902. It was a trifling and insignificant matter to close the hotels in a municipality, while prohibition dealt with forty millions of property. In Essex they had worked with a bare majority for forty years, which was proof of all that was necessary. A prohibition law not enforced was not as good as a license law well enforced, and was a menace to public morality by its violation and a discredit to all law.

#### Made a Political Machine.

He was sorry there was not stronger proof that the Government would administer the law on a strictly non-political basis. There was clear and indisputable evidence that it was not. Men were selected not as moderates, but of extreme views in the Government ranks

to be commissioners and license inspectors. In 1896 Messrs. Marter and Whitney thought the County Judge, the Mayor and a commissioner appointed by the Government should serve. The Liberal Government resisted because they thought the law was impartially administered. He had made some inquiry as to the character of the inspectors appointed in a number of counties, and it appeared the department was to be made a political machine of the worst kind. Mr. Ross read from a long list of appointments recently made, in which the license inspectors or commissioners were all strong party workers, some Presidents of Conservative Associations. The Government had made a tactical mistake in choosing these officers. Whatever had been the case under the former Government, he did not think there was any such conspicuous evidence of political influence. The Premier would find difficulty in carrying out his promise to remove the license department from political control with such instruments as these.

Hon. Mr. Hanna declared he had never been half so proud of the commissioners and inspectors appointed. It seemed they were the finest men in their communities. Many of them had political views, but he thought he could say they were not actively in politics. The bill was read a second time, and referred to Committee of the Whole House next Tuesday.

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Mr. Paterson and Mr. Hyman also  
riefly addressed the deputation in sym-  
pathetic terms.

### WILL STAND BY VOTE.

#### DESPITE THE OBJECTIONS OF TEMPERANCE PEOPLE.

Ontario Alliance Deputation Received Yesterday—No Intention or Legalizing Sale of Liquor on Sunday or of Granting Licenses to Boats.

Premier Whitney and Hon. Mr. Hanna made it plain to the deputation from the Ontario Alliance which waited on the Government yesterday that there is no intention of changing the provisions of the new license act demanding three-fifths or (60 per cent.) of the vote.

which it could not have been carried under the proposed measure. This year local option had carried in 59 municipalities, which would result in closing 146 liquor places. By the provision of the proposed act, victory would only have been gained in 27 municipalities, closing 48 places. During his remarks on this subject Mr. Spence denounced the referendum measure of the former Administration. He complimented the Premier on his manly, straightforward stand against the referendum proposition as un-British, and praised his contention that the majority should rule. The people had every confidence that the Premier was a man of his word and would now stand by it.

Rev. Dr. Chown said there was nothing in the bill to reduce licenses. A high fee would not accomplish that. A reduction in the number of licenses, the abolition of bars, drinking in clubs, and the treating system were all things in line with the sentiment of the day and that might have formed part of the bill.

Mrs. Thornley, in a fluent address, sustained the opinions of Mr. Spence and Dr. Chown. She entered an earnest protest against proposed limitation of a vote on local option to two years before another could be taken.

Rev. William Frizzell, the last speaker for the deputation, added his protest against the three-fifths vote proposition.

Hon. Mr. Hanna, the first to reply, traversed a good deal of the ground of his argument in the House in respect to the three-fifths per cent. of the vote cast being necessary to carry or repeal local option, and in regard to the equality in the time

said it was possible for every municipality in the Province to have local option without a vote of the people. Under the present law any Council could practically secure it by increasing the license fee, limiting the number of licenses to be issued. He supported Hon. Mr. Hanna's arguments as to the majority which should be given in support of or against local option. It was desirable from all points of view to have more than a bare majority in support of such a measure. He also earnestly defended the provisions of the new law as to fixed times for vote on local option. The Government gave place to no one in its appreciation of the evils of the drink traffic, and its desire to do everything possible for the moral welfare of the people. The Government would always welcome criticism of its course from any source.

In addition to the points mentioned in the addresses, the deputation presented to the Premier a memorial embodying the resolutions in respect to other clauses of the act passed at Wednesday's convention of the Alliance.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Alliance a resolution was adopted thanking the delegates who had gone as a deputation to present the views of the convention to the Government. The standing Committee on Finance and Organization were appointed for the ensuing year.

#### PHARMACY BILL REPORTED.

##### Measure Approved Requiring Registered Druggists in Companies.

The two big departmental stores opposed Mr. Downey's pharmacy bill before the special committee of which Hon. Mr. Pyne was Chairman. The Ontario College of Pharmacy supported the measure. Dr. J. H. Preston declared that 6,000 druggists asked for the bill, which required directors of companies operating drug stores to be registered druggists. Mr. Harcourt, while willing to insist that no physician's prescription should be filled by any but a graduate druggist, considered the measure in some respects somewhat drastic. Mr. Downey asserted that the big companies would not be affected in the slightest degree by the bill, which was unanimously reported without change.