

is now the West riding, and which will become the South, and the taking out of Metcalfe. The political strength of the parties will not be affected materially by the alteration.

Mr. T. H. Preston has given notice of his intention to ask if the Government were specially represented at the Dublin Exposition last year, and, if so, by whom, and the expenditure involved. The same member has also signified his intention to ask if it is the proposal of the Government to amend the truancy law this session. Mr. C. N. Smith will inquire as to the cost of running the Hydro-electric Power Commission since its creation.

## NO PROMISE FOR ALLIANCE PEOPLE.

### Huge Deputation Waited Upon the Government.

### PREMIER NOT DEFINITE.

### But Conservative Party Prepared to Accept Issue.

### Hon. Mr. Whitney Makes Address to Members of Ontario Branch of Dominion Alliance Regarding Repeal of Three-fifths Clause — Stand by Conclusions, Notwithstanding Threats or Cajolements.

While refusing to make any definite statement in reply to the request by the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance that the "three-fifths clause" should be repealed, Premier Whitney assured the huge deputation which waited upon the Cabinet yesterday that the Government took the same deep interest in temperance questions that they did themselves. The reply of the head of the Administration was absolutely non-committal, but he said that the question was one to which the Government would have to give consideration.

The deputation numbered about six hundred persons, many of them women, and no single room of the Parliament buildings was sufficient to accommodate them. They gathered on the steps leading from the main corridor, and there heard the remarks of Premier, and Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary. Every possible advantage was crowded, and the hall grew quite enthusiastic whenever their own speakers made important points, and whenever the Ministers seemed to veer in their favor. The members of the deputation were introduced by Mr. Joseph Gibson of Ingersoll, and they were representatives of Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist denominations.

### Mentioned the States.

Mr. Joseph Gibson, President of the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance, repeated many of the arguments advanced at the meeting of the Alliance during the past few days. The three-fifths vote, he said, was contrary to justice, fair play and the spirit of British institutions. He gave the Government credit for the manner in which the law had been enforced. It was the duty of the Government to give them reasonable consideration, he pointed out, and he mentioned that in the United States he had never found anything like a three-fifths vote. Proceeding, he claimed that Ontario should have as fair a chance to get rid of the bar as any other place. The Government, he added, had a large majority, and the Province was proud of the Government.

Speaking for the Presbyterian denomination, Rev. Dr. Pidgeon also gave the Government credit for the enforcement of the law. The bar, he said, should be abolished at the earliest possible

moment.

"We are in politics," declared Rev. Dr. Carman of the Methodist Church. "We are in politics to fight for the betterment of this community and for the coming generation. I want to declare it before this assembly I am in politics. I am in politics in this moral question, and I am going to continue in politics."

Rev. Dr. Sowerby of the Baptist denomination stated that they were not satisfied with the local option law. They would never cease in their efforts until they had total prohibition.

"There is no moral right by which any evil traffic should be licensed," he added as he said the temperance people would keep coming to the Government until they had obtained what they wanted.

### Premier's Reply.

Premier Whitney, replying to the deputation, said:—"To carry the last words of the last speaker, I don't think those chaps think the law is a farce. If they do think so we will go on endeavoring to prove to them that it is not a farce." (Hear, hear.) Proceeding, Mr. Whitney said that he had to be a little careful in what he said, for the reason that he did not want to occupy their time unduly and for no other reason.

"There are," he said, "two or three reasons why I should not discuss at length the questions which have been dealt with to-day. In the first place we as a Government and the Legislature of Ontario cannot bring about prohibition. Therefore discussion of it only obscures the situation with regard to local option. A great deal can be said about prohibition, and in favor of its desirability and of every honest, straightforward man and woman who desires to diminish and if possible do away with the evils of the drink traffic and habit.

But there is no use beating our heads against a stone wall, because the stone wall will stay and we will retire. With reference to our attitude on the three-fifths clause the position that has been taken in the past is thoroughly well understood. I must say that I was a little disappointed that Mr. Gibson should have quoted entirely from the great republic to the south and not mention the British dominions round the face of the world where this question has been passed upon. I for one am bound to say that I have a sympathetic feeling with the action of the entire British community on any political or moral question, and I am not going to the republic to the south for my inspiration.

### The Premier's Wrath.

In reading the newspapers this morning I was astonished to see that a clergyman belonging to the United States, when asked in a public place in the city, while presumably the guest of Canadians, what he thought of the three-fifths clause, said that before he had thought this a civilized country, but he was sorry to say it still looked barbarous to him. I am sorry that there and then he was not told the opinion of the people who listened to him as to his good taste, knowledge and information. (Cheers.) I determined that the insult should not be allowed to pass by me, at any rate, as a representative citizen of Ontario. (Cheers.)

### No Class Differences.

Proceeding, Mr. Whitney said that something had been said about a middle class. "There is," he declared, "no class in this country, and as long as this country proceeds under the aegis of British institutions, and the blessings of the Almighty, there will be no class in this country and no class difficulties. I am a little chary about saying anything very definite about this question to-day, because I understand that there are some who have met here who have declared the intention of making this a party question, and I think, in that case, you will agree that I should be unwise to say anything. All I can say is that the Government is in politics, and when the time comes, no matter what the policy may be on this question we are prepared to throw down the gauntlet of battle and allow the people of Ontario to decide our deserts. I have no objection to making it a party question." Proceeding, Mr. Whitney said that if a Government were occupied with a number of great questions, of which, for example, the three-fifths clause might be one, it would be wrong to sacrifice the greater number in order that that particular matter might be carried through. "That," he said, "would be false doctrine of politics, from the Christian point of view, and fair play."

### No New Thing.

The principle of the three-fifths clause, he contended, was no new thing. It was to be found in many

church courts, and in every country under British rule where local option prevailed. "The Government," he proceeded, "will of course have to come to a conclusion. There is no doubt whatever it is our duty to consider the working of this law as well as the working of every law in the Province." The Government could not take any credit for what they had done, said the Premier, for they had only done their duty. "We shall consider every matter that comes before us, and when we have come to an honest conviction of our duty we shall stand by it in spite of threats or cajolements. Whatever else we may do, so long as this Government exists it will act upon its honest convictions.

"I am proud to see you people here to-day, because I know what prompts you to come, and I say that for every heart-beat of yours in respect to this great and terrible question there is a heart-beat in the breast of the Government of the Province of Ontario. I know that the scoffer will say that what I have said is all for party. It is not. We will risk our party for what I have said. I should like to tell you that we have risked it on this subject and principle. I hope that the time will come, and it will not be so far off, when everybody who has at heart the same object as you and I have will be found working together, no matter whether one man may not be prepared to go as far as another. In that way all great reforms and ameliorations have come, by men with a common object, not criticizing with the help of a magnifying glass the motives and viewpoint of another man."

In conclusion, Mr. Whitney said that there were many difficulties in connection with the liquor traffic, but everything possible should be done to diminish its evils.

The Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, also addressed the deputation. He said that if he were called upon he was prepared to express himself in the same language he had been quoted as previously using. The Government had done much to deal with the evil of the liquor traffic, by enforcing the law, and in many cases they had enforced it in spite of the absence

of aid from the people who should have enforced it in the first place.

The deputation then withdrew.

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