

service. Several recommendations would have consideration in future legislation, but it was thought advisable at the present session to give the municipalities power to trace the milk to the source of supply.

Mr. W. K. McNaught, upon whose resolution the commission was appointed, extended his thanks and congratulations. The investigation injurious consumption of liquor. If local option is encouraged the whole of the Province will eventually by this means come under prohibition. It should be the aim and object of this House to bring this about as speedily as possible in the interests of the country generally."

Hon. Mr. Hanna Moves a Hoist.

Hon. Mr. Hanna moved a six months' hoist. Many, he said, who regarded the three-fifths clause as doubtful legislation at the outset were now in hearty accord with it. In the three years of its operation he said local option had made greater progress than ever before, and he was satisfied to refer the results to the great mass of temperance people in the Province. The Government, after carefully reviewing all the arguments, had decided to retain the present system, under which the vote could only be submitted in a municipality once in three years. He deemed it to be the duty of the Legislature to take all reasonable steps to minimize the evils of the liquor traffic, and with this end in view the Government had determined its policy.

Succeeds in Spite of the Three-fifths.

Mr. J. W. McEwing then took up the cudgels on behalf of the cause of temperance. If local option had been successful, it was in spite of the three-fifths clause, and not because of it. He gave figures showing the number of licenses that survived only because of the injustice of the three-fifths requirement. He took issue with the Hon. Mr. Hanna on the matter of permanency. In forty municipalities where local option had carried by a three-fifths vote there had been seven contests seeking to repeal the law, while in seventy places where local option had been carried by a majority vote there had been only five attempts to repeal. "That proves," declared Mr. McEwing, "that there is no more permanency in the three-fifths vote than in a majority vote."

"In a country such as this," he continued, "where we are supposed to have representative government and majority rule, there should be no such handicap. It is the duty of this House to remove that handicap."

Sir James is "Astounded."

The Premier followed. It was, he said, a matter of remarkable satisfaction to the members of the Government and to himself that the atmosphere which surrounded the discussion of the three-fifths clause was so different from the one that surrounded it when it was first introduced in the House. He said that not a week went by that he did not receive strong, earnest testimony, either written or verbal, from good men from every part of the Province of their more or less slow conversion to the doctrine of the three-fifths clause.

"That being so," he declared, in concluding, "it has become well understood that the three-fifths vote is part and parcel of local option. It is an integral part of the scheme and principle of local option. "I am astounded—surprise would not be putting it strong enough—astounded at the testimony I have received in this direction. We purpose to go on until something arises which we do not anticipate, which will create doubt in our minds where no doubt now exists."

The Premier Becomes Indignant.

Mr. Proudfoot expressed surprise at the Premier's stand, since he had stated to a deputation some time past that the handicap of the three-fifths was possibly too great.

Sir James became indignant at once. "All I will reply to that," he said, "is simply to say that I said nothing of the kind."

"But the hon. gentleman was so reported," persisted Mr. Proudfoot.

"You have told us that twice," retorted the Premier angrily, turning his back to the member for Centre Huron.

"I must take the hon. Premier's statement that what was in the papers is not so," said Mr. Proudfoot and the incident was closed.

A Curious Circumstance.

The member from Centre Huron thought it was curious that while the Premier was receiving testimony lauding the three-fifths clause, he (Mr. Proudfoot) was receiving letters from all over the Province calling it an outrage. He closed with an appeal to the House to pass the resolution.

Mr. Hanna's amendment was carried on a division.

Changing Education Act.

The Premier explained the provisions of the bill to amend the Department of Education act. The measure, which has already been outlined, places separate and public schools on a slightly different basis in the apportioning of educational grants. Under the new bill the grant to education is divided in two lump sums between the separate and public schools on a basis of the aggregate attendance, and is subdivided among the individual schools on the basis of equipment. Formerly equipment was the basis on which the general allotment was made. The changes, the Premier explained, were made upon the suggestions of the Statute Revision Commission. The effect will probably be to increase the grant to separate schools.

The New License Act.

Hon. Mr. Hanna moved the second reading of his bill to amend the liquor license act. In explaining the measure he observed that some of the members might object that it made no provision for the putting of corruption in local option contests upon the same basis as in voting on debenture by-laws. This change which had been asked for by the temperance people was, he said, covered by the municipal amendment act.

The principal clause of the bill provides for the closing of all bars on Christmas Day. A second clause makes the wholesale liquor license fee \$500 over the whole Province instead of varying according to location as it does now.

The Provincial Secretary said that a number of new suggestions in connection with the license system had been received by the Government. One of them was that the Government has one license board for the whole of Ontario, composed of "big" men. The plan might be considered later.

No Central Board Just Yet.

The Premier made it clear, however, that no change was contemplated at once. "There has been a conference between members of the Conservative party and the Government," he said, "to suggest some new scheme with reference to the control of the liquor traffic. Among many schemes and suggestions that have been received by the Government from time to time, there is one particular one, namely, that it would be well to do away with the present scheme and create a Provincial Board of License Commissioners, who will take up the whole matter of regulation and control from the city of Toronto. The matter has been considered and may be considered again, but there is no foundation for any story that the Government has in hand any such change at the present moment."

Will Prorogue on Saturday.

The Premier announced before adjournment that it was the intention to prorogue on Saturday.