

# EMPHATIC TURN DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT

## TEMPERANCE AND GOVERNMENT

The Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance asked Sir James Whitney yesterday to expunge the three-fifths clause from the local option law of this Province and also to enact prohibitive legislation affecting the liquor traffic, as far as it was possible in Ontario.

Both of these petitions were unequivocally refused by the Premier, who said it was impossible to have perfect prohibition in Ontario. Hon. W. J. Hanna, who was in company with Sir James, vigorously defended the three-fifths clause as a force for temperance. He also criticized Rev. Ben. H. Spence for having said in convention the day before, as reported by one morning newspaper, that the Conservative party had been "treacherous." Mr. Spence denied the allegation, and later in the day declared that his charge had been that "trickery" was the sin of the Conservative Government, while "treachery" had been the characteristic of the Liberal party.

The three-fifths clause passed by the Whitney Government, Mr. Spence claims, was nothing more than a political trick.

## Temperance People Get No Encouragement at Par- liament Buildings.

## PROHIBITION CALLED AN IMPOSSIBILITY.

## Ontario Branch of Alliance Ends Convention After an Exciting Day.

Full of confidence and with a strong knowledge of their case, the Convention of the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance marched on the Provincial Parliament buildings yesterday morning, banded words with Sir James Whitney and Hon. W. J. Hanna over the three-fifths clause and a prohibitive law for the Province, and returned to Cooke's Church in the afternoon to express words of disappointment and indignation.

Officers were elected, the Treasurer's statement was presented and reports of various committees were given. The last hours of the convention in the evening took the form of a public meeting, over which Mayor George H. Lees of Hamilton presided, and addresses were delivered by J. H. Roberts, Montreal, and Miss Cora E. Stoddart, Boston, with a number of selections by the Victoria University Glee Club.

Vividly contrasted with the furious invective hurled at the Ontario Government by many of the speakers during the last two days, and most effective in its reflection upon the position assumed by Sir James Whitney in relation to temperance legislation, was an address delivered last night on "The Situation in Quebec," by Mr. Roberts, the little Welsh Secretary of the Quebec branch of the Dominion Alliance. Mr. Roberts is not unlike the famous Lloyd-George in appearance and his eloquence is characteristic of the fiery Celt.

## Refutes Hon. Mr. Hanna's Statement.

Mr. Roberts said that he had been an interested listener at the interview with Sir James Whitney and Hon. W. J. Hanna in the morning, and he had noticed that the Provincial Secretary had stated that Quebec, which only required a 51 per cent. majority vote to carry local option, was far behind Ontario with its three-fifths clause. "I want to say," said Mr. Roberts, "that Mr. Hanna is wrong. Fully two-thirds of the municipalities in Quebec have local option, while in Ontario you have only a little over half," he continued.

## Government in Quebec Sympathetic.

Quebec was the keystone in the arch which the temperance people of Canada were trying to build, and the reason for this position was that Quebec had a Liberal Government, which was absolutely in sympathy with the temperance movement.

"Sir Lomer Gouin," said Mr. Roberts, "would sacrifice politics any time for the cause of prohibitive legislation. We have no three-fifths clause in Quebec. It is an unheard of thing to repeal local option in Quebec. We do not live under an un-benevolent despotism, but in an enlightened and progressive democracy," he declared.

## Montreal Versus Toronto.

Referring particularly to Montreal, the speaker said that he knew that

Toronto was the better city. "Toronto is evangelical; Montreal is ecclesiastical; Toronto believes in justification by faith, while Montreal believes in pay-as-you-enter," said Mr. Roberts. "But in Montreal," he continued "we have a police force which is a regular comic opera. It is either inefficient or corrupt. But even in Montreal we don't send our drunkards to jail," said the speaker. "We have democratic methods of treating the liquor traffic. Our inebriates are sent to places for special medical treatment and the Government foots the bill.

## Work of the Roman Catholics.

"The best thing you Protestant people can do is to catch up with the Roman Catholics of Quebec," he advised. The leader of the Roman Catholics in Quebec, Archbishop Bruchesi, had given the pledge of temperance to 200,000 of his people in that Province.

## Four Ways to Get Temperance.

There were four methods open to the people of Quebec to adopt local option. First, any municipal Council may refuse to grant licenses, and there was no appeal from its decision. All that was necessary in this case, therefore, was to elect a temperance Council. Secondly, in any polling subdivision if a simple majority of the electors signed a petition against the granting of licenses, none could be granted. Thirdly, if thirty voters signed a petition to the Secretary of a Town Council asking for a prohibition poll to be brought on, a simple majority at a ratepayers' meeting was all that was needed to try the question of local option. And fourthly, any municipality could get a clause in its charter to prohibit the manufacture or sale of liquors within its limits.

## Interview Ended in Disorder.

With one indignant temperance enthusiast shaking his hand in Sir James Whitney's face and declaring that he would "never vote for him again as long as he lived," and others angrily describing the Prime Minister's statements as nothing but "declamations," the interview the three-hundred-strong deputation had with the Government yesterday morning broke up in something like disorder.

## "Three-fifths" Clause Attacked.

The speakers of the deputation handled the Prime Minister's three-fifths law without ceremony, a proceeding to which Sir James took warm exception. On several occasions while Sir James was speaking he was interrupted by cries of "That's not so," "That's not true," and at one point he became angry and turned on one member of the deputation with a caustic rebuke.

## Provincial Prohibition Impossible.

Sir James declared in unmistakable language that "Provincial prohibition" was an impossibility, and marvelled that "any person of ordinary intelligence, any person who could read and write," could hold such an opinion.

## A Bitter Criticism.

Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, expressed in a different form the same opinion, vigorously defending the three-fifths clause as a force for temperance. The Minister took the breath away from the members of the deputation by opening his remarks with a bitter criticism of Rev. Ben Spence, General Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, for having declared to a temperance mass meeting yesterday that the Conservative Government had dealt "treacherously" with the temperance people in enacting the three-fifths law.

## The Statement Disowned.

Rev. Mr. Spence kept silent, but later, when Sir James alluded to the "treachery" statement, several others interrupted, declaring that the General Secretary had never used the expression attributed to him.

"I never said it," concurred Mr. Spence, when appealed to.

"Then all I can say," remarked Sir James, "is that he should have said so some time ago."

Here Hon. Mr. Hanna interposed to explain that before quoting the newspaper he had made independent inquiries, and had satisfied himself that the newspaper reports were substantially correct.

## No Word of Encouragement.

From one end to the other of the speeches of the Prime Minister and the Provincial Secretary there was not a word of encouragement for the