

and there were more of them, than under retail license.

"I say this knowing it to be true, having participated in elections for the Scott act and having professionally prosecuted people every year when the Scott act was in force. I don't wish to repeat my experiences, or even to think of them, they were so revolting. Therefore, before we come to the conclusion that my hon. friend's resolution is wise and advisable we must consider what the probabilities are likely to be.

#### Condemns Treating System.

"Surely," said Sir James, "I need not say anything reprehensible as to that ridiculous, disgraceful habit of treating. A fashion or habit lasts with us a certain time. I could mention things done and language used by the best people of this country forty years ago, which to-day the same people would be horrified if they were accused of doing or saying. I am merely attempting to show, in my crude way, that development is a matter of evolution, of growth. Those who think they can accelerate or retard it are both utterly and entirely mistaken. But no doubt the time will come when a break will be made in this ridiculous and senseless habit of treating, and I certainly hope so.

#### Offers to Abolish Treating.

"It is said it would be very difficult to inaugurate and enact legislation that would affect the treating habit. I agree. There have been times in the history of nations and of this Province when individuals have been willing to give up, perhaps, somewhat of their cherished privileges and rights in order to the general benefit of the community. Then, I ask, would legislation against the treating system be unwarranted? I cannot answer that question in the affirmative. I shall, under certain circumstances, consider such legislation justified, and under certain circumstances I am prepared to stand sponsor for legislation of that kind.

#### Thinks it Can be Enforced.

"I think I could show such legislation to be justifiable, although unusual and startling. But I am not now thinking whether it is justifiable, but can you enforce it? There is no question that it would be a very difficult law to enforce, but it is possible that it could be completely enforced, but how many of our laws are so enforced? But I think it probable that if any legislation were enacted doing away with the treating habit, with regulations by the department which has control of the license system, holding over the hotelkeeper the possibility of losing his license if he disobeyed the law, it would have a good effect. In my opinion, as Hon. Mr. Blake says, this question of treating is at the root of the whole matter. I wish at any rate it would do this. I ask hon. gentlemen on both sides to sympathize with the position I take. Although it would not succeed in abolishing forever the system of treating, it would minimize and practically do away with it, especially under the spur which regulation would provide to enforce the law.

#### Would Help Young Men.

"Here is the point which has determined me to favor legislation of this kind: under the favor of Providence, it is my belief that it would in a short time kill and destroy the desire for the habit of treating. Our young men and boys would grow up so that in five years from now it would never occur to them to enter upon this habit, because they would not see other people doing it.

#### Says Liquor Men Want It.

"Further, within the last forty-eight hours it has been communicated to me by more than one man who is engaged in the wholesale manufacture of ardent spirits in this Province and in the retail sale of ardent spirits that they hope distinctly that legislation on this question will be undertaken, because they want to see the treating habit destroyed. The public mind of this Province has declared itself, and is a unit practically in favor of the change I have indicated. I believe I correctly interpret the public view, that abolition of the bar will not suffice to correct the evils, but intensify them so long as people are not prevented from purchasing in shops licensed by this

Province."

The Prime Minister then moved his amendment to the motion, which is printed in another column.

#### Where the Prime Minister Stands.

Mr. W. Proudfoot (Centre Huron) referred to the statement of the Prime Minister that the leader of the Opposition had adopted the policy of abolition of the bars for the express purpose of driving him (the Prime Minister) into the arms of the liquor dealers.

"I say that is just where he has been for a great number of years," declared Mr. Proudfoot. "For many years the members of the Government have been elected by the united efforts of the liquor people. I am glad to see that as a result of this splendid resolution of the leader of the Opposition he has broken away. If the Government does nothing else than adopt this amendment to abolish the treating system the time of our leader has been very well spent in taking the Prime Minister out of the arms of the liquor people. For that is the effect of his amendment. If, as he says, there was nothing necessary to be done, why did he take this position? He stated that it was not necessary to do anything at all, and yet he comes forward with this resolution, showing clearly that something had to be done."

Mr. Proudfoot pointed out that by abolishing the bars they would in a much more effective manner do away with treating. "The Prime Minister says he will be pleased to see the treating system done away with. Then why does he not join hands with the Opposition in doing away with the bars?"

#### Mr. Blake's Statement.

Referring to Mr. Blake's statement read by the Prime Minister, that doing away with the bars would simply be driving the treating system into some other channel, Mr. Proudfoot said that he believed Mr. Blake to mean that it would drive the treating system into the clubs. He wished to point out that the policy of the leader of the Opposition was to wipe out not merely the bars, but also licensed clubs.

The Prime Minister had mentioned the lack of enforcement of the Scott act years ago. Public opinion, said Mr. Proudfoot, had advanced a great deal since that time. No effort had been made to enforce the Scott act, and had it been enforced as laws were enforced to-day there would have been an entirely different result. So far as shops were concerned they would be wiped out by local option.

"Once the bars are wiped out there will be no difficulty at all in wiping out the shop licenses. Because wherever local option has failed to pass it has failed because of the assistance given by the hotelkeepers. Without the assistance of the hotelkeepers the liquor traffic could not stand."

#### Handwriting on the Wall.

The Prime Minister had seen the handwriting on the wall. He knew well that unless he brought forward something to counteract the policy of the Opposition he would not be able to keep his seat after another general election. The Prime Minister had said they had been returned three times on the present system. If that were so, then why had he changed his position unless it was that the people of Ontario had also changed?

Sir James Whitney—What difference does it make if it is a good thing? (Applause.)

Mr. Proudfoot—I think that your resolution is a good thing. But what we propose is a good deal better. That is the difference between us. You have proposed a very good thing, but ours is very much better than yours. But if there were no possibility of our getting ours we would discard ours and accept yours. Because anything in the way of temperance will be a good move, and anything in that line will have my hearty support.

#### Deathbed Repentance.

The Prime Minister knew, continued Mr. Proudfoot, that the resolution was absolutely no good so long as the bars remained. It was only dealing with the matter in a half-hearted manner. It was a sort of deathbed repentance, because they had adopted the position only to make political capital out of it. Mr. Proudfoot did not want to make any political capital out of it.

Sir James Whitney had said that