

to regret in regard to the course that has been pursued by this Government since taking office in 1905, with regard to the liquor traffic. (Conservative cheers.)

"The Government took this position upon its record of attempting to administer the license law in the interests of the people. Every session amendments had been made for the better enforcement of the law and the minimizing of the evils of the liquor traffic.

"This session has come and this session will not pass," the Provincial Secretary continued, "without further legislation in the same direction, having the same end in view. What that legislation shall be this Government has been the judge in the past and this Government will be the judge to-day, and, so long as we have the responsibility, we shall be the judge of the time and the particular form that this legislation will take."

#### The Liberal Policy.

As Mr. Proudfoot's amendment was introduced after that moved by Mr. Elliott was disposed of, Mr. Rowell addressed the house briefly on the question of temperance reform. Again he brought the proposal to abolish the open bar in the province before the full view of the house.

The Liberal party stood for the abolition of the bar, and by the bar was meant the room behind the bar, the complete abolition of the hotel license. This would cut out the treating habit, which he thought was the only effective way to wipe it out. This would also include the club license. Then, as Dr. McQueen had pointed out, there were only eighty municipalities in the Province that had shop licenses, local option would continue to operate against them and at the same time further restrictions could be imposed that experience would suggest. To render more effective the administration of the law, officers would be appointed that would be in sympathy with its proper enforcement and the whole system would be removed from the sphere of party politics. In accomplishing this, Mr. Rowell pointed out that the residue of the traffic could be efficiently handled by a Provincial commission composed of two members, one chosen from each of the two political parties. In addition to this he proposed that a better system of inspection and regulation of places of public entertainment should be established with the view of providing proper and adequate accommodation for the needs of the travelling public. Already the Commercial Travellers' Association was moving towards that end.

#### The Elk Lake Telegram.

Turning his attention to the Elk Lake telegram, which was produced on Monday, Mr. Rowell congratulated the officials of the Government at having the suspicion against them for sending an unauthorized telegram dispelled. "I also congratulate the House that whilst the Prime Minister sometimes says he won't do things, and told us last session that he would not tell us whether he sent the telegram or not, if we only stick at it we can finally get it out of him."

"But I congratulate the Prime Minister that after a year's thinking it over, after a year's consideration, after time for reflection, we have had a public confession and acknowledgment that he sent the telegram."

#### Government's Election Methods.

Referring to the Muskoka election and the statements by Dr. McQueen of interference by Government officials. Mr. Rowell asked: "Is it not a commentary not only on the Government method of carrying on elections in the north country but in their whole administration of the civil service in that country?" As Mr. Armstrong's candidature in Muskoka was a protest against the working of the Government "machine," Mr. Rowell said the Liberals were prepared to let them settle it for themselves.

"Until that group of Government officials, disbursing the money of the Province, as Mr. Armstrong says, and seeking to control matters in their own interest are prevented, they are stifling the free expression of public opinion in the north country, and we cannot have a fair expression of public opinion on anything." The same condition existed in the Waterloo election, continued the Liberal leader, where a license inspector, who proposed to run as an independent candidate, dropped out, and was re-

warded with an increase in salary of \$100.

"It is all news to me," interposed Mr. Hanna. "I take it that he dropped out before the increase was proposed."

"My hon. friend may have promised it to him."

"You would not suggest that he dropped out for \$100?" continued Mr. Hanna.

#### Sir James Replies.

"As to the lugubrious story about the Muskoka election told by my hon. friend," said Sir James, "he talks about the regular Conservative candidate retiring from the contest. Was not that the time for the saviours of this country to go to the rescue and put a candidate in the riding? Fancy Sir Oliver Mowat or Sir George Ross backing up or running away from such a situation. My hon. friend could not muster up sufficient backbone to go up there or run a candidate. In East Middlesex my hon. friend set up his standard with deep emotion and kept it out of sight with deeper emotion. He held a meeting in North Waterloo the other day, when all danger was past. He did not bring out a candidate in East Middlesex, but he brought forward the emotional platform, this new temperance policy. If anyone can produce in the whole history of political activity in Canada or in Great Britain a political leader acting like my hon. friend with his emotional policy I am prepared to take a back seat for some time to come."

#### Would Send Another Telegram.

Reverting to the Elk Lake telegram, Sir James said he wanted to correct a mistake made by the leader of the Opposition. Mr. Rowell had declared that the Premier's answer to the question about the Elk Lake extension was posted up and used for two days previous to the election in that district. Sir James said this was impossible, as he sent the answer at 9 p.m. on Saturday and the election was on Monday. He said he was not responsible for the information about the telegram not having been made public before. It was up to the Opposition to elicit it in the proper way. "They had a telegram in this House, passing it from one to the other and playing a game of 'button, button, who's got the button.' Anyway, there was no harm in the telegram I sent, and I would send that telegram again under similar circumstances."

On the question of placing the license system on a non-political basis. Sir James said Sir Oliver Mowat had found it impossible. "We say," said Sir James, "that men are mortal, that they are human, even Conservatives. When an inspector is found to display any political leanings the Provincial Secretary deals with his case at once. In all these matters we will move when our judgment tells us to. The people of this Province have told us very emphatically not to pay any attention to these honorable gentlemen."

#### Mr. Rowell and The Globe.

Sir James then returned to the matter of the relations of the leader of the Opposition with The Globe. He referred to the statement made in the front page of The Globe following the day when Mr. Rowell denied to the Premier that he was a stockholder or director of that newspaper. "I want to know," asked Sir James, "what pressure of business compelled my honorable friend to sever his connection with that paper. I would also like to know that having divested himself of the unclean thing, does he intend to turn from that thirteen years' of golden dividends pouring into his pockets from the paper a part of whose revenue is obtained from running whiskey advertisements—from tainted money?"

Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) said he was going to vote for the amendment to the address, because the Government had failed to do what it had promised in the matter of introducing anti-treating legislation.

#### Dr. McQueen Arouses Sir James.

Dr. James McQueen (North Wentworth) said the Opposition had been twitted for not having had a candidate in the Muskoka bye-election. He said the regular Conservative candidate did not run, protesting against the election methods practised by the Government officials. The regular Conservative candidate had charged that Government officials had inter-