

that he entirely concurred with the observations of the Attorney-General. He would not take the time to answer the remarks of the honorable member for Grenville. "I do not think this is the time or the occasion to deal with a matter of this serious import in mutual recriminations." He was not aware of Mr. Evanturel's feelings on the liquor question until after he came to the House, although he knew when he introduced his policy that he would lose the support of many who had hitherto supported the

Liberal party, but that did not deter him in his course.

Mr. Evanturel read his statement during an intense and penetrating silence in the House. He said:

Evanturel Makes His Statement.

Mr. Speaker, here is my statement to the House and to the whole Province of Ontario in regard to the charges brought against me before this Legislature on the 25th day of February last by the honorable member for Grenville, Mr. Howard Ferguson, when he produced a letter dated at Alfred on the fourth day of September, 1913, and signed by myself and addressed to one of the directors or officers of the Allied and Licensed Trade Association of Ontario.

On the very afternoon I drew the attention of the House, with the intention to lay before the House, some abuses which have been committed in my county, and particularly in the town of Hawkesbury, by the granting of a shop license under the bad administration of the License Board, and I have then attacked the Government for the bad administration of the license system which is in bad operation in my county.

My intention then was not to support the amendment in discussion before the House, but merely to mention the abuses committed in Prescott county.

The misconception of the word "alliance" on my part was unfortunately used then against the Government, this being due to my lack of knowledge of the English language. When the honorable member for Grenville took the floor after me, it was his right to reply to me, having mentioned that there was an alliance between the liquor interest and the Conservative party, and in his Parliamentary remarks he asked me if I had had any relation, or words to that effect, with the liquor men, that is with the Allied and Licensed Trade Association.

Did Not Understand.

I admit that I did not understand what he meant at the time, nor did I remember then that I had communicated with the Allied and Licensed Trade Association, and I am sorry that I denied this fact, and for this I wish to apologize to the honorable member for Grenville personally.

I admit also that the letter was written and signed by me, and I further state that this unfortunate letter was written with the object of getting a position as organizer and to request financial support for the cause I had been fighting for many years, viz.: for the hotelkeepers of this Province, and particularly for those of my county.

I had learned that the hotelkeepers of this Province had organized themselves in an association, and that they had considerable capital to fight their case before the country.

I made an application to the Secretary of the association, Mr. Allen, 26 Toronto street, without knowing then what kind of a position they could give me.

I had in my mind at the time that if they could not offer me a position with their association, they could probably assist me financially in the cause I was interested in. In my application I explained to them fully that I had taken an open stand in favor of the liquor interest long before entering into politics.

Mr. Allen, the Secretary of the association, in reply to my application, stated that he would place my application before the board at the first meeting, but said that he thought my application had come too late, and that a man had already been appointed for the position that I was seeking.

Letter Was Not Private.

In the letter produced before the House, and which was addressed to

one of the members of the board asking his support to my application, I fully explained then very candidly, as the letter was not private, that long before being in public life I had worked in favor of the hotelkeepers in Prescott county against prohibition, and in 1902 I stood openly on the public platform on their behalf.

When I was nominated in my party as the Liberal candidate on the 6th day of November, 1911, I opened my campaign immediately, and I have a good recollection of having answered in a mass meeting to a question put to me by an elector in the audience, asking me if I would vote in the House, if elected, in favor of a resolution to banish the bars brought by my leader or my party, that I had always been against the abolition of the bars, and that I was in favor of a license system honestly administered under an independent Commission.

I said also that I had years before fought for the hotelkeepers, and that I would always remain a true friend to them, and that I was still in favor of the license system. When I first came to the Legislature, and the Liberal leader of his Majesty's Loyal Opposition in this House submitted to his supporters his resolution to wipe out the bars, I opposed his policy.

Explained His Attitude.

When the first vote was taken upon the resolution to abolish the bars I wrote a letter to the Whip of the Liberal party, our worthy friend, Mr. Bowman, stating that I could not support the resolution submitted by the Liberal leader to the House, for my constituents were opposed to it, both Grits and Tories, and it was clearly stated in my letter to the Whip of my party that I was not in sympathy with that policy to banish the bars, and I had no mandate from my constituency to support it, and my statement was borne out by the Liberal Whip, Mr. Bowman, himself.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bowman got my letter too late, and he had paired me in the vote with the honorable member for Manitoulin. The very next morning, when I saw that I had been paired, I wrote a second letter to Mr. Bowman to protest strongly against his action, and I have informed him again that I could not and would not support the said resolution.

Consulted His Constituents.

Since I have been a member of this House I have had the good habit to visit my constituents every year during the recess of Parliament and to report to them all the work of the previous session of the Legislature. I declared during that visit to my electors on the public platform that I had refused to support my leader and my party, and that I was not the only one, on the resolution to banish the bars, that I had always been the true friend to the license system well and independently administered in this Province, and that under no consideration would I accept that policy of my party to banish the bars, for I knew that 90 per cent. of my county was against the abolition of the bars.

Now, as you see, Mr. Speaker, my position was publicly known in Prescott that I was opposed to the resolution of my party to abolish the bars. Some of the newspapers of the City of Toronto and in the country have stated that I was a traitor, and that I was stabbing my leader and my party in the back, and to that statement I oppose a strong denial, as my position on that matter was well known long before I entered into politics, and it was also known to my leader that I was opposed to the abolition of the bars, and this fact was also borne out by the leader of the Opposition.

I wish to state again to-day to the people of this Province that the member for Prescott is against the abolition of the bars, and my constituents, both Grits and Tories, are also against the abolition of the bars.

Now, Mr. Speaker, coming to the serious point of the letter read in this House by the honorable member for Grenville, in which I asked for salary and financial support from the association, I have to say frankly that in most honest intention I wrote the letter and similar ones as an individual, not thinking of my responsibility to the House, and not intending to affect the dignity of the House.

No Criminal Intentions.

Anyone reading the letter must have realized that I had no criminal intentions whatever, that the letter