

## YOUNG CONSERVATIVES SEEK 'DRY' LEGISLATION

Present Petition With 9,000  
Names to Government

### LICENSE CHANGES COMING ?

Mr. Hanna Tells Deputation Govern-  
ment Has Some Amendments, but  
Would Not Disclose Their Nature  
—May Support Liberal Policy.

"That you pass an act in the Legislature abolishing all liquor, shop, bar and club licenses in the Province, such legislation to come into effect only—and thereupon automatically—after a majority of votes have been cast in its favor in a plebiscite on the question, presented to the people within a year after the passing of the said act."

This was the request presented to the Provincial Cabinet yesterday morning by a deputation representing the Ontario Young Manhood Association, supported by a memorial bearing 9,000 names.

The memorial stated that the signers of the petition had supported loyally the general record of the present Government, and they would with reluctance feel obliged to forsake the Conservative party in order to see a Liberal temperance proposal carried, but if the present situation continued, they would be bound to pursue that course. The situation in Ontario today with regard to the liquor question was one to which no conscientious citizen could give his support.

Mr. W. K. McNaught (North Toronto) introduced the deputation, which was received by Hon. J. J. Foy, Hon. W. J. Hanna, Hon. James S. Duff, Hon. J. O. Reaume, Hon. W. H. Hearst, Hon. I. B. Lucas.

#### Mr. Foy's Reasoning.

Mr. Foy took the position that the Government was as much concerned about the liquor question as ever, but it would be useless to proceed in advance of public opinion.

"We know the evils of intemperance as well as anybody," Mr. Foy added, "and we wish as much as any person to minimize those evils, to check the use of intoxicants in every possible way. Any law which we passed calling for total prohibition would not be worth the paper it was written on, so the question which remains to us is to find the best way of checking the evil. I do not believe that if there was complete abolition of the bars there would be less drinking in the country than there is now. Anybody would still be entitled to bring in liquor for his own consumption. It could only result in the increase of blind pigs and liquor dives and poisonous liquors. If the Province wishes it, there is still the local option and the Canada temperance routes."

Mr. Hanna said that the Government had important liquor legislation under consideration, but they were not in a position to make a statement on the subject at the present time.

## GOODERHAM BILL AIMED AT UTILITIES DEAL

HON. ADAM BECK OFFERED COM-  
PROMISE, WHICH MAY BE  
ACCEPTED.

Before the Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday morning the merits of the Gooderham bill, providing that votes on money by-laws in cities of 100,000 and over shall only be taken on the municipal election day, were freely discussed. Mr. Gooderham openly avowed that his amendment to the municipal act aimed directly at the proposed purchase of the Toronto Railway Company and the Toronto Electric Light Company. At the same time he did not want to tie the city's hands in respect of important works that might be delayed in consequence of this amendment, and thought that the clause might be changed to enable it to have a vote at any time on a decision by three-fifths of the Council. If this was done the amendment might be made general.

Mr. J. A. Ellis (West Ottawa) objected to the bill on the ground that if all money by-laws were submitted on the municipal election day it would lead to a confusion of interest.

Mayor Hocken pointed out that there was a substantial majority in the City Council on Monday against Mr. Gooderham's bill. "A city of this size," said the Mayor, "has big and important public works, which must be put through in a hurry. We could not wait for a vote on the first of January in a case of that kind."

Hon. Adam Beck referred to the vote in Hamilton, which was put to the people on a separate day, and the private company hired every possible conveyance and used all means at its disposal to defeat the Hydro by-law. "There was no other issue before the people, and if it had not been for the great public interest displayed the by-law would undoubtedly have been defeated."

The "Minister of Power" then introduced an amendment to the bill, as follows:

"A proposed by-law may, and in cities having a population of not less than 100,000 shall, only be submitted on the day of the annual election, where it provides for the purchasing or acquiring of any public utility or street railway or for entering into any agreement for that purpose, or for disposing of any public utility, or granting any public franchise, it shall only be submitted on the day fixed for taking the poll at the annual municipal election."

The feeling of the committee appeared to be in favor of this amendment, but no vote was taken. Hon. W. J. Hanna suggested that the matter had better stand over for a while. When the bill came up he intimated that if the bill was to be adopted it should be made applicable to towns with a population of over 5,000, "otherwise it would be rather inconsistent."

As it is now the matter will stand for a week, and the parties to either contention will have an opportunity to consider Mr. Beck's compromise proposal, which seems to embody the principles which Mr. Gooderham seeks to incorporate in the municipal act and at the same time leave the way open to deal with emergency cases.