

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1915.

# CENTRAL COMMISSION TO REGULATE LIQUOR

**New Proposal of Provincial Government—Shorter Hours  
in Shops—No Sale to Soldiers in Uniform  
—Mr. Rowell Dissatisfied**

## CHANGES IN LICENSE LAW.

A Central Commission of five men will administer the license law, instead of the Provincial Secretary, aided by riding Commissions.

Liquor shops will close at 7 o'clock each night instead of 11 o'clock in cities and 10 o'clock in towns.

The sale of liquor on Labor Day is prohibited, as on Good Friday and Christmas Day.

The sale of liquor to soldiers in uniform is prohibited.

The answer of the Hearst Government to the demands for advanced temperance legislation was given in the Legislature last night, when Hon. W. J. Hanna introduced the long-expected bill to amend the liquor license act, which was found to provide for a Province-wide, non-political Commission to deal with the administration of the liquor trade. The measure was eagerly anticipated by members on both sides of the House, following the Premier's declaration to the temperance deputation some weeks ago that the Government's proposals would be found well abreast of public sentiment. It carried out also, according to Mr. Hanna, the promise of Sir James Whitney, who "said he would, and in power attempted so to do, remove as far as possible the liquor traffic from the field of politics."

"While it has been my duty as well as my privilege to introduce on several occasions bills to amend the liquor license act during the past ten years," said

Mr. Hanna, "at no time has it been my duty or my privilege to introduce a bill more far-reaching in its result, more far-reaching in advancing the administration of the liquor license law, more far-reaching in minimizing the evils of the liquor traffic. While we say the bill which we introduce to-night will do all this, it will do this in small compass, so far as space on the statute books of this Province is concerned."

## Mr. Rowell's Criticism.

Mr. Rowell frankly confessed his disappointment with the bill. If he understood the Provincial Secretary right, the proposal of the Government involved a radical change in license administration, but no radical change in the hours of sale or in the number of places that might sell. With the exception of making Labor Day one of the prohibited days and closing the shops at 7 o'clock in the evening, that was the sum of the restrictive proposals.

## Public Will be Disappointed.

"What I wish to say is this," continued the Liberal leader, "that in view of the circumstances under which this House is met and of the conditions and demands of the country, no more disappointing bill was ever introduced to the Legislative Assembly. I think the great majority of the right-thinking people of the Province will be disappointed at the bill."

The proposal represented the maximum of change with the minimum of benefit so far as curtailing the evils of the liquor traffic was concerned. He felt sure that the bill would be particularly disappointing to the friends of the Prime Minister in a