

matter of such vital moment and at a time of national stress, who expected a much more radical bill, so far as its prohibitive features were concerned.

A High-class Commission.

Explaining the provisions of the bill, Mr. Hanna said the Provincial Commission would be composed of men of as high a class as the Government could select, men who would be paid a sum commensurate with the work they would be called upon to do, and a sufficient amount to enable them to give their whole time to the work.

"This Commission will have assigned to it responsibilities that would be somewhat analogous to the responsibilities that are to-day assigned to and discharged by the Boards of Justices in England in dealing with the question." The Commission would probably be composed of five men, and its duty would be to divide the Province into license districts of much less number than there are at present. In charge of these districts would be placed license inspectors, who would be required to give their whole time to the work. Under the present system there were underpaid as well as overpaid men—that is, men who were worth more than they were getting, and others who were getting more than they were worth, no matter what that was, but under the new arrangement he would expect to have inspectors comparatively competent, or competent in comparison with what they were to-day.

Leave Much to Commission.

Mr. Hanna said it was a question how far the Government should by statute deal with the hours of sale at taverns and shops. It had been decided to leave that entirely to the Commission, giving that body considerable latitude to regulate the hours of sale. While there might be discussion as to shortening the hours from eleven to nine, or eleven to ten, having regard to local conditions, it would bring better results to have that dealt with entirely by the Commission. In the case of shops, however, the bill provided that immediately on its passing all liquor shops would close at seven o'clock.

More Severe Penalties.

Mr. Hanna said that more severe penalties would be provided to assist in law enforcement. The present penalty of a fine of \$100 or \$500 for a first offence was to be changed, making the minimum fine \$300. For a second offence the present penalty was a term in jail. The amendment would make it not less than four months in jail without the option of a fine.

To Protect Soldiers.

Responding to the agitation that had taken place over the sale of liquor to soldiers in uniform, Mr. Hanna said that in view of the condition of war that existed all over the Empire and the desire to get the best results from soldiers in training, the bill would amend the law to make it illegal to serve soldiers in uniform with liquor in hotels or shops, so that no man wearing the King's uniform could be sold intoxicating liquor. He admitted there might be arguments advanced as to this change in the law, but pointed out that in some sections of the Province where soldiers were gathered the hotelkeepers voluntarily had agreed not to sell to soldiers, and he was assured that the men themselves would not object to the prohibition.

Power for Commission.

The Commission would not be left without power to enforce its demands on the hotelkeepers, said Mr. Hanna. Power would be vested in it that was not now enjoyed by the local boards plus the inspectors plus the head of the department, that would permit the suspension or cancellation of any license for refusal to comply with the law or regulations.

Mr. Rowell said he would withhold his remarks on the merits or demerits of the bill until the second reading. In the past Mr. Hanna had declared with great vehemence what the Government had done to remove the liquor traffic from political influence.

Could Not Please Mr. Rowell.

Replying to the Liberal leader, Mr. Hanna said he never hoped to be able to formulate a bill that would meet the satisfaction of his honorable friend the leader of the Opposition. He did not think that anybody could formulate a bill to suit him but the

honorable gentleman himself. He repeated that the powers given to the Commission would be the same as those enjoyed by Boards of Judges in England, who had power to deal both with hours and the number of licenses in municipalities, and while there was a vast change in administration, there was a vast change in the law as well, as he would find out when he came to know more about it.

"CASTLE OF FOLLY"

AGAIN CONDEMNED

Liberals Severely Criticized Expenditures on New Government House

The Ontario Government's piece of "monumental folly," the costly palace for the Lieutenant-Governor, was again condemned in unmeasured terms in the Legislature yesterday by the Opposition. Mr. C. M. Bowman (West Bruce), who made a recent investigation of Government House, saw no reason to modify the opinions he had previously formed, but declared, amid the applause of his Liberal colleagues: "The construction of this castle in the northern portion of this city will stand for all time as the most monumental piece of folly that has ever been undertaken by any Government in this Province. If all the electors of the Province of Ontario could take a trip to that remarkable castle, 90 per cent. of them would come to the same conclusion as I arrived at after an investigation of that castle consisting of eighty rooms."

He moved that the item of \$200,000 in the estimates be struck out and that the new Government House be sold at the best price and a more suitable building provided. He considered the expenditure for such a purpose should be no more than \$250,000.

Defended by Minister.

Hon. Finlay Macdormid (Minister of Public Works) said the question was discussed during the last election, and the Opposition secured little comfort. Government House would be completed for less than \$1,000,000, and, notwithstanding all the criticism, would be a source of pride and satisfaction to the people of the Province.

Messrs. H. Munro (Glengarry), Wm. McDonald (North Bruce), Allan Studholme (Hamilton), J. C. Tolmie (Windsor), Ducharme (North Essex), Atkinson (North Norfolk), Carter (South Wellington), Racine (Russell), Davidson (North Brant), and Mageau (Sturgeon Falls) and S. Clarke (West Northumberland) also condemned the expenditure, while Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario) defended the Government's action.

Mr. Bowman's amendment was lost by 56 to 21 votes.

Will Get More Information.

Later in the evening Mr. Bowman secured an order for a return showing certain documents of 1871 and 1908 affecting lands and property known as Government House, though not before Mr. Lucas had contended that the restrictions spoken of the other day by Mr. Rowell had been removed in 1910 by the Legislature without a division, and not surreptitiously repealed in 1913. Mr. Rowell replied that the building had been expected to cost only \$400,000, and the statement that the Government had to make those large outlays because of a trust had no foundation in fact.

Municipal Amendments.

The bill of Mr. Allan (West Hamilton), that in cities having a population of not less than 100,000 and not more than 200,000 inhabitants there shall be a Board of Control consisting of the Mayor and four Controllers, elected by a general vote, was given a second reading.

The bill of Mr. Lennox (North York), with reference to the taxation of land acquired outside of a municipality for a reformatory, jail or industrial farm, was referred to the