

York Radial Railway Company to double-track Yonge street in the city limits was withdrawn from its bill with the consent of the committee.

#### Extension of Time.

Corporation Counsel Geary, with Sir Adam Beck, Mayor Church and Engineer Couzins of the Harbor Board, objected to the clauses relating to an extension of time to construct certain branches should not stand. Mr. Geary said the clause was a sort of a blanket charter and did not outline what particular lines the company proposed to construct.

"The city has us in its power," said Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, who appeared for the company.

"What is the use of getting an extension of time to build to Markham when the people are going to build a line?" asked Mr. Geary.

"It is a very unusual thing to see a company admit that the city has it in its power," remarked Sir Adam Beck. He would like to compare the proposed lines with those of the Hydro.

"Yes, they will have to do that," said Chairman Gooderham. "You have the company point out just what lines they propose to extend and send a copy to the city and Sir Adam."

So before any extensions are secured the company must submit its plans to the Hydro-electric Power Commission and the city.

Mr. W. N. Ferguson, K.C., secured a two years' extension to commence construction of the Humber Valley Railway. The company agreed to have the road completed in five years from March 1, or forfeit.

#### An Explanation Due.

Rather than take the road over in five years the city would prefer to have the direction of the building of the road, said Mr. Geary.

"We had the same trouble with the electric movement," said Sir Adam Beck. "I think it would be foolhardy on the part of the promoters of this railway to get another extension."

"We have been waiting for the city and Hydro to do something for three years," replied Mr. Ferguson. "We have been quite willing that they should build."

The Eastern Ontario Electric Railway Company will have to make an explanation to the committee before its request for an extension is granted.

Mr. George H. Gooderham was elected Chairman of the committee, in succession to Hon. Mr. Hendrie.

## Chorus of Disapproval From Temperance Workers, Churchmen, Man on the Street, and Even Licensed Trade Itself

"What do you think about the temperance proposals of the Government?"

"Which Government? Saskatchewan?—They're all right," replied a well-known temperance reformer in the city.

A representative of The Globe went around the city asking anybody and everybody this question: "What do you think about the debut of the Hearst Government as a temperance reformer?"

The consensus of opinion from the Dominion Alliance down to the man on the street was far from flattering to the Government. It might be mildly stated that the whole program is unpopular. One Conservative, who has no time for "temperance fanatics," very briefly described it as "punk." One Scottish soldier was heard to say that the contingent should "quit," and expressed himself in strong terms against the "Alliance," which he seemed to think was responsible for taking away their freedom.

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#### A Slur on the Soldiers.

The Dominion Alliance, however, is very emphatic in condemnation of the stigma that the new law of prohibition for soldiers would cast upon the man in khaki. The general opinion of church officials is that such discrimination is unfair; that it is practically placing every soldier on the Indian list, whether he be a drinker or not.

The strongest condemnation of this form of class legislation has come from Major-General Sam Hughes and General Lessard. The Minister of Militia said at Ottawa yesterday: "I think it is very unwise to make a discrimination in regard to soldiers in this country. The soldier is a citizen just like any other man."

#### An Invidious Distinction.

Major-General Lessard said he was in favor of dry canteens, but claimed that the soldier was entitled to the rights and privileges of civilians. "It is an invidious distinction. The soldier himself should uphold the honor of the uniform," said the General.

Other officers seemed to think that the matter should be left to the military authorities, and that the "drunks" should be weeded out as unfit for service. There is also a feeling that many sober young Canadians are kept from joining the contingent by the sight of these bad examples of the life of a soldier.

#### "The Mountain Labored—"

"A mouse," was the reply of Dr. Robert Haddow, editor of The Presbyterian, when asked what he thought of the program, "and a very small mouse, after all the labor it has taken to bring it forth."

"What did you expect?"

"Well, they might at least have enforced early closing all round."

Dr. McKay, editor of The Canadian Baptist, was trying to think calmly about the matter, and said: "The more I think the madder I get. It seems to me that men of the calibre of Mr. Hanna and Mr. Hearst have been taking up the thing as a joke. We were led to expect something worth while."

"If I were a soldier I would resent the thing," said Dr. McKay, on the part that applied to men in khaki. "The soldier is supposed to be a highly-disciplined man, who should know the importance of restraint better than the average citizen. This is where the Government give themselves away. What is good for the soldier is good for the ordinary man. The same applies to picking out Labor Day. We are glad to have another day cut off, but why mark the labor man? If I were a labor man I should resent that." As to the Commission, Dr. McKay said he was

afraid of too much centralization. "How are they going to deal with a case at long reach. The whole thing strikes me as dilly-dallying with the business."

#### "So Infinitesimally Small."

"They haven't done anything," was the comment of Dr. A. S. Grant, the Presbyterian Home Mission Superintendent. "The thing is so infinitesimally small that it would take a microscope to see what they have done. The best of Commissioners can do nothing so long as the inspectors are the servants of the Government. They should have left the shops and closed the bars; it is there that the mischief is done. As for the soldiers, I don't see why a soldier cannot be trusted and given the same consideration, when he is off duty, as any other man."

#### The Bishop Waits.

The Bishop of Toronto said: "I refuse to express any opinion extemporaneously upon so important a question. Careful thought is necessary before dealing with these great moral issues."

#### Pitiful Weakness.

Mr. Ben H. Spence, Secretary of the Ontario Alliance, said: "To those who hoped for a substantial progressive measure the pitiful weakness of the legislation is a sore disappointment. The Government could not have done anything and done less. The value of a central Commission can be better determined when we know exactly the personnel and power it will possess. It could be beneficial; it might be a disastrous evil. In regard to the soldiers, this is unquestionably good, but by what line of reasoning the conclusion has been reached that what is bad for those in the ranks of the militia is not equally bad for those in the ranks of industry, I do not understand."

#### What the Trade Says.

As to the effect of the early closing of shops while the bars are left open some shopkeepers believe it will rob them of their late trade, which will be merely diverted to the bars. There are fifty shop licenses in Toronto, and two of these have been closing at 6.30 p.m. for some time. It is argued that the people who patronize the shops would get all the liquor they wanted if the shops closed at noon.

"The closing of the hotels on Labor Day," said Mr. Geo. Wright, President of the Hotelkeepers' Association, "will certainly drive thousands of people out of the city and over into the States."

#### Gets Nights Off Now.

The owner of one liquor shop expressed some satisfaction over the changes. He figured that his sales each night after seven o'clock averaged \$37. Half of this he thought he could retain through earlier orders. The balance of \$3 per day he did not mind losing, he said, for he now could have his nights off, which he had not had since he entered the business.

#### Labor's Criticism.

Ex-Controller Simpson said: "It is a good idea to close the bars on Labor Day. I wish they would close them altogether. The Government has shown lamentable lack of backbone. It is an exhibition of moral cowardice."

Other Labor leaders said it would give the bartenders an opportunity to parade on Labor Day; that they should have applied the same to every holiday. And it was suggested that the 12th of July should be included.

#### Ministers Will Protest.

A special meeting of the Toronto General Ministerial Association has been called for Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock for a general discussion on the new liquor license law. It is expected that there will be a vigorous and concerted opposition to the new measure.