

Part of License Bill Effective at Once

When the liquor license bill was going through committee, Mr. Hanna explained that certain sections of the act might come into operation at once, while the remaining sections or any one of them could be brought into operation by proclamation. The bill provided for the license year in each district to commence on a date to be named by the Board, but it would be preferable if it could be worked out to have a uniform date. There would be no delay in bringing the new Commission into office, said Mr. Hanna. It would be merely a transfer.

Political Influence on Board.

Considerable opposition developed over the Lieutenant-Governor in Council having approving power over the suspension or cancellation of a license by the Board. Mr. S. Carter (South Wellington) said it would be impossible to relieve the Board from local influence, while Mr. S. Clarke (West Northumberland) said if the Government wanted to convince the people of its sincerity to remove the Board from all suggestion of political influence it would remove the portion of the clause relating to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Mr. J. C. Tolmie (Windsor) asserted the Provincial Secretary said this Commission was going to be, as far as possible, a non-partisan Commission.

"If it is really non-partisan, and is to have big men, such as some of the Judges of the country, independent, large-minded men, then put the matter in their hands, give them every freedom and see if it will not work out good results," remarked Mr. Tolmie.

Mr. Clarke said a board of independent, broad, big men could do justice to this, but as long as the clause stood as it was it was a farce, because the Government of Ontario were still the bosses of the licensees.

Criticism was also directed at clause 15, which set forth that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint such Provincial, district, county and city inspectors as may be deemed necessary; a Secretary of the board, such other officers, clerks and servants of the board as may be deemed necessary, and Mr. Carter suggested that the Commission should have the power to appoint their men.

Tying the Board's Hands.

Mr. J. H. Ham (South Brant) declared in a business concern the man who was going to be responsible—the foreman or the superintendent—was the man who hired the help. That was the only way to get satisfaction.

Mr. Sam Clarke declared it was a piece of bluff to appoint five men and tie their hands behind their backs.

Clause 15 was carried.

In answer to Mr. Rowell, the Provincial Secretary said the figures he had in mind to pay a board of five would be between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Mr. Rowell—Four to five thousand dollars each?

Hon. Mr. Hanna—I should expect it as probably \$5,000. These are the figures estimated in our calculations.

Mr. Carter (South Wellington), with reference to clause 19, moved an amendment to the effect that in addition to the shops being closed at 7 o'clock, the bar and club licenses should also be so affected. The amendment was defeated, and then Mr. Carter moved that bars and clubs be closed at 8 o'clock, but was again unsuccessful. He then tried 9 o'clock, but met a like reception, which was repeated when he suggested 10 o'clock.

No More Reforms Allowed.

A suggestion by Mr. Hurdman (Ottawa) for closing on New Year's Day was also turned down.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) moved that all the bars, clubs and shops be closed on Saturday afternoons at 1 o'clock during the war.

A proposal to make local option county-wide was later brought up, but met the same fate as the other amendments. The motions were only formally made in committee, the yeas and nays being called and no count taken.

The bill finally emerged from the committee stage at 1.20 this morning after a wide range of discussion on all clauses. Major Tolmie (Windsor)

spoke in a strain differing from that of some of his colleagues when he said that while he had hoped for a larger measure of temperance reform from the Government he believed that the bill would produce good results if the right kind of man was appointed. He believed that the Premier was sincere in his desire to promote reform and was prepared to accept his good faith in that direction.

ANOTHER WORD STOP OVER T. & N.O. ITL.

Mr. Rowell Wants to Know About Dominion Subsidy

SOME SHARP REPARTEE

Discussion Raised Over Inclusion of Interest Amount in Statement of Receipts and Expenditures—Effect of the Item on Treasurer's Deficit.

The Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature yesterday morning exploited more of its energy to determine whether or not the inclusion of the item of \$544,000 interest from the T. & N. O. Railway in the statement of receipts and expenditures for the last fiscal year affected the deficit reported by the Provincial Treasurer. Mr. Rowell got into a wordy discussion with the Provincial Treasurer as to whether or not his examination of the Provincial Auditor with respect to the disposition of the \$2,000,000 odd subsidy received from the Dominion Government in 1913 was in violation of an agreement made with Mr. C. M. Bowman as to the privilege of opening the 1913 accounts for this purpose.

Mr. Lucas' Contention.

Hon. I. B. Lucas appeared before the committee to give his recollection of what transpired at the time with the Auditor, and it was questions based on that explanation that led to the discussion. Mr. Lucas contended that if the full amount of the Federal subsidy had been credited as current revenue for 1913 there would have been a much a larger surplus. He resented the imputation that the Conservative members were trying to burk the inquiry by restricting the questions to the items named.

Receipts and Expenditures.

"Now, if you were preparing the statement of accounts," asked Mr. Rowell, "what would be the difference between receipts and expenditures?"

"That involves an opinion," replied Mr. Clancy.

Mr. McGarry said that question was not in keeping with the understanding with Mr. Bowman. If Mr. Rowell thought it was honorable he was at liberty to go ahead.

"We are not learning rules of honor from my hon. friend," retorted the Liberal leader.

Amount for Capital Account.

Referring to advances to the T. & N. O. last year, Mr. Rowell asked what was for capital account and what for the operation of the road.

"That has nothing to do with the subject," said the Auditor, who pointed out that the accounting of the railway was complicated and advances were made by the Government for construction.

"No amount appears in your books in 1914 in respect of this item of \$544,000?" pressed Mr. Rowell.

"No."

"And then to get the real difference between receipts and expenditures we must leave out that item?"

"Yes."