

WOULD WIPE OUT BARS WITHOUT REFERENDUM

Result Foregone Conclusion—
Vote Unnecessary

ATTITUDE OF SAM. CLARKE

Mr. Hugh Munro of Glengarry Makes
Vigorous Plea in Legislature for a
More Progressive Agricultural
Policy and Aid to Farmers.

Mr. Sam Clarke, the Liberal member for West Northumberland, in the Legislature yesterday suggested that, instead of a prohibition referendum during war-time, from May 1 no license be granted, that licenseholders be given to July to sell out their stock, and that not one cent of license be charged. He claimed that by this method the retail sale would stop two or three months earlier than by a referendum, the result of which he regarded as a foregone conclusion—a vote in favor of prohibition. Mr. Clarke's speech was made on the Budget, and he claimed that there was room for ten to fifteen per cent. of economy. He condemned the expense on Government House, "that blooming ghost up there in the hollow," and made play of the fact that the Government was obtaining revenue as the result of legislation passed by the old Government.

Plea for Progressive Agriculture.

Mr. Hugh Munro (Glengarry) put in a plea for a more progressive agricultural policy, while Mr. J. W. Johnson (West Hastings) and Mr. A. H. Musgrove (North Huron) thought the Province, financially, had been well managed.

Mr. J. W. Johnson (West Hastings), continuing the debate on the Budget, touched on the temperance demonstration the day before, and asked them not to blame the soldiers for all the trouble. He declared young fellows were gibing at the soldiers on the sidewalk, and the latter, being men "with fine spirit and with red blood," naturally resented what these other men were saying. A man wearing the King's uniform was justified in taking his own part.

Not a Dollar for Graft!

Mr. Sam Clarke, who followed Mr. Johnston, said the member for West Hastings had travelled from Dan to Beersheba. Mr. Clarke then branched out in humorous fashion, saying: "I have always had great faith in the honesty of the member for West Hastings and love his simplicity, which passeth all understanding. Imagine the Parliamentary experience he has had and hear him say that during the year not one solitary dollar goes for graft! (Laughter.) Not one solitary dollar out of \$12,000,000 goes in graft! Of course, I do not know what it means. But I think we could give a bountiful grant to the Red Cross or other charitable institutions out of \$12,000,000 spent last year from every dollar expended and not earned."

Hard to Start a Fight.

After alluding to the love feast and brotherly love spirit which prevailed, "so much so that we cannot get worked up to a fight," Mr. Clarke came on to the temperance question, and was surprised the member for West Hastings did not mention it in his speech. He twitted Mr. Johnson regarding his remarks last

session when he criticized the Ministers for supporting the Liberals in their abolish-the-bar campaign. "I was afraid he would lose his church connection," declared Mr. Clarke, "but now he is right in line." Referring to the Committee of One Hundred and the attitude of the Government, the member for West Northumberland created much mirth when addressing himself to the Cabinet Ministers in the House. He exclaimed: "You ducked before they came. You have accepted it holus-bolus, and you promised them a majority vote, and I agree with you—one man as good as another."

Tribute to License Board.

Mr. Clarke paid a tribute to the Ontario License Board, saying it well satisfied the people of the Province. But he pointed out that if the Government had accepted the advice of the Opposition a year ago on the temperance question they would not have had a Commission to dismiss like that now. There was another mistake—why this referendum? Every hotel-keeper, brewer and distiller knew this referendum was going to carry hands down. He suggested that from May 1 no license be granted, but he would give these licenseholders till July to sell out their stock, and he would not charge them one cent of license. It was only right, it was only justice. If the Government brought on their referendum he presumed that would not go into force until June or July, and then they would have to give two or three months' notice to sell out. In other words, there would be three months more of retail sale than under his proposal.

Affairs in Satisfactory State.

Mr. A. H. Musgrove (North Huron) complimented the Provincial Treasurer on his "excellent Budget," and said that the increasing wealth of the Province was due to good government. He agreed with Opposition speakers that economy should be practised. While it was quite possible that an occasional dollar went astray when so many millions of dollars were being expended every year, he felt quite sure that the public moneys were handled as carefully as could be. The public institutions of the Province under the supervision of the Provincial Secretary's Department were "conducted in an admirable manner," and the inmates were well looked after. He did not see how the cost of operating these places could very well be reduced without impairing the efficiency of the institutions.

More Assistance For Farmers.

A vigorous appeal for a more progressive agricultural policy was made by Mr. Hugh Munro of Glengarry, who contended that Ontario was not developing her resources in a manner that would make for steady progress. The Government ought to take steps to increase the population of the rural sections of the Province. The farmers should be given more encouragement in the shape of better facilities. Farm life should be made more attractive to the young people and to farm laborers, so that they would not flock to the cities as they had been doing in the past. Northern Ontario should be advertised more than it had been advertised in other countries in order that a good class of settlers might be attracted to that part of the Province.

Where Ontario Lags Behind.

By reference to Government returns, Mr. Munro showed that the acreage under cultivation in Ontario had increased by less than four per cent. in ten years, while in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan the acreage had been increased in the corresponding period by 500 and 647 per cent. respectively. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were the only Provinces in the Dominion which showed a smaller acreage increase than Ontario. Mr. Munro had travelled extensively and some of the finest farms he had seen in Canada were in New Ontario. If the Government were anxious to extend the settlement of the farm lands of the Province they should do more than they were doing to assist the farmers. For instance, they might set a gang of workers under a man of the type of Mr. Whitson, the Superintendent of Colonization Roads, at the task of clearing ten or fifteen acres of tim-