

MORE AMENDMENTS TO TEMPERANCE ACT

Expect Action to Restrict So- liciting

MR. ROWELL'S SUGGESTION

Premier Hearst Tells of Difficulty in Defining Jurisdiction — Argu- ments for Reduction in Number of Commissioners.

It was made clear in the Legislature last evening that the bill amending the Ontario temperance act did not contain all the items that the Government will probably submit to the House for consideration. Hon. W. D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary, in moving the second reading of the bill stated that a number of important suggestions had been made to the Government, some of which were still under consideration, and would be brought to the attention of the House in committee.

Some Changes Needed.

Mr. Rowell concurred in what the Provincial Secretary had said with reference to the satisfactory results which had come from the temperance act. He drew attention to certain matters which he thought should be considered. First of all there was the matter of direct delivery, which was not contemplated when the act was introduced. Another matter was the advertising of liquors in the Province or soliciting orders in any other way. Undoubtedly the effect of these things was to increase the consumption within the Province.

Mr. Rowell also referred to importation and the answers at Ottawa that the Province had power to deal with the matter. It would be interesting if the Provincial Secretary or the Prime Minister would state the Government's conclusion as to the jurisdiction of the Province. There was another question, as to whether the work of the License Board could be handled by a smaller number of members.

Premier On Act's Working.

Premier Hearst stated that a clause was being drafted dealing with the question of soliciting. Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties was soliciting through the mails. Advertising had largely disappeared in the Province, "and we expect to have a resolution dealing with that, perhaps leaving the matter of regulation to the extent that the Province might have power in that regard," said the Premier. "Possibly it will be dealt with in a broader way than we can deal with it in the Province.

"I am free to admit that there may be some doubts as to where the law is, having regard to the enactment of the Dominion Government," said the Premier. "At all events, we do not think the jurisdiction is clear enough to make it wise to have any legislation at the present time dealing with that. The act has worked admirably, and I think we ought to be cautious and careful, and not court any adverse decision in the matter of jurisdiction."

With regard to the membership of the License Board, Sir William Hearst said the Government would consider the matter, and if they thought they could reduce the membership without impairing the enforcement of the act it would be done, but if they felt such could not be done without impairment there would not be a reduction.

Number of Commissioners.

There should only be one License Commissioner "instead of four highly-paid men with very little to do," in the opinion of Mr. Hartley Dewart.

Mr. Sam Carter was inclined to agree that the cost did not matter so much if the act was properly en-

forced. He thought they might do away with the license inspectors and give more responsibility to the police. The police now wink at law-breaking, he said. He could relate some ugly things. The system of Police Commissioners was a failure. Men with money could "get behind the Magistrates" when poor men had to go to jail.

Hon. Mr. Lucas said they could not police Ontario from Toronto.

"Sam Carter is trying to make angels of us too quickly," said Mr. Sam Clarke (Northumberland). They were advancing as rapidly as the people could go. "I think, yes, I know, that things are mighty dry in our Ontario towns." (Laughter.) Not a hotelkeeper in Cobourg had been fined for lawbreaking since Sept. 16.

The temperance people will lose thousands of votes if they interfere too much with the personal liberty of the people, Mr. Musgrove (Huron) said he had been told.

The Temperance act amendments were then given second reading.

LENNOX "JOKER" REJECTED BY BILLS COMMITTEE

TORONTO RAILWAY FAILS TO GET ORDER TO CITY TO BUY ITS CARS.

The Lieut.-Col. T. Herbert Lennox "joker," which proposed to compel the city of Toronto to secure new cars for the Toronto Railway Company, was yesterday thrown aside by the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature, and the city secured validation of the Railway Board order, which requires the Toronto Railway Company to furnish 200 new cars, provided this is ratified by the Legislature. The committee also dropped a substitute clause offered by the city as a compromise with the idea of giving the Railway Board power to ask the city to purchase the cars in the event of the company proving it is unable to secure cars. The counsel for the railway company objected to this, so the railway got nothing at all, and will get nothing unless the Legislature reverses the action of the Private Bills Committee.

The city's motives were questioned by a Toronto member, Mr. George Gooderham, who insinuated that the Corporation of the City of Toronto was not sincere in its attempt to get more cars and prevent overcrowding.

Works Commissioner Harris replied that the city had been trying for six years to get more cars.

FURTHER TIME REFUSED TO BUILD HYDRO RIVAL

The Hydro-radial Railway Association scored a victory over the Toronto Suburban Railway Company before the Railway Committee of the Legislature yesterday, when application was made by the company for an extension of time in which to complete its Weston, Guelph, Galt, Kitchener line.

Sir Adam Beck; Mr. J. W. Lyon, President of the Hydro-radial Association, and Mr. T. J. Hannigan, Secretary, appeared on behalf of the Hydro, and Mr. L. F. Hellmuth, K.C., represented the Toronto Suburban Company.

Mayor Church said the city of Toronto did not want the road.

Mr. Mark Irish declared the private railway was being run "to murder the people," and asked Mr. Hellmuth if he would risk riding on it.

Counsel for the company said after spending \$2,000,000 on the line they certainly intended operating it.

"I don't see how you can ask this committee to violate the Government's own policies," said Sir Adam Beck.

The request for time extension was refused.