

# BEER TO BE NO STRONGER

## Straight and Emphatic Answer to Deputation by Premier Hearst

### HISSES AND GROANS

#### Some Elements of Saturday's Deputation Displayed a Hostile Spirit.

Clamoring for stronger beer, a crowd of several thousand workingmen got beyond control of their leaders outside the Parliament Buildings on Saturday afternoon when Sir William Hearst told them candidly that he could not promise them any change in the statute books. What might well have developed into an ugly situation was averted when the Prime Minister and members of his Cabinet withdrew, leaving a howling mob outside. Sir William Hearst probably never has been in such an unenviable position, and it must be said his strong stand and manly action won the admiration not only of friends but also of a number of political foes who happened to be present. He told the deputation that "I am not going to shelter myself behind any other Government. . . . I must tell you candidly that I do not see my way clear to promise you any change in the statute books." Several times there was considerable horseplay and the police had much difficulty in keeping the crowd in check, but when Sir William made it plain that the Government was opposed to stronger beer the wilder element in the crowd completely lost their heads. Shouting angry disapproval of the Premier's statement they attempted to rush the Cabinet Ministers. Sir William for a moment or two stood his ground and the police endeavored to control the crowd. Finally, however, the Prime Minister realized that it was useless to continue his speech, and, accompanied by members of his Cabinet, he retired into the buildings.

#### Parade to Legislature.

Headed by officials of Labor unions in various parts of the Province the crowd marched up University avenue with banners and Union Jacks, arriving in front of the Parliament Buildings shortly before three o'clock. One slogan read: "No beer, no boats," and was carried by members of Local 128 of the International Brotherhood of Iron Shipbuilders. There was a sprinkling of returned soldiers in the crowd, which numbered about four thousand. Probably not more than one thousand were supporting the request made of the Government. The rest were present simply as spectators looking for a little excitement.

The deputation was heard on the steps in front of the Parliament Buildings. As the crowd waited for the members of the Government to appear some sang, "When the beer is on the table," and a woman enthusiastically waved a tea kettle, indicating that she was opposed to beer.

With Sir William Hearst were Hon. W. D. McPherson, Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Hon. I. B. Lucas, Hon. F. G. Macdarmid and Hon. T. W. McGarry. Controller Sam McBride and several members of the City Council were present. The following spoke on behalf of the deputation: Messrs. Thomas Moore of Niagara Falls, General Organizer of the United Brotherhood of Car-