

# MAKING O.T.A. REALLY TIGHT

## Amendments to Temperance Act Introduced in Leg- islature

### ONTARIO BEHIND OTTAWA

#### W. K. Proudfoot Introduces Bill to Reform Voting, but Later Withdraws It.

Further amendments to the Ontario Temperance Act, intended to make it "air tight," were introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. W. D. McPherson. The amendments will make it impossible for violators of the spirit of the act to escape punishment because of mere technicalities. Because of the recent order in Council passed by the Dominion Government certain sections of the O. T. A. will be suspended to the extent necessary to conform with the provisions of the order. The sympathy of the Government is shown to be behind the order in Council, for the bill puts a stop to indirect deliveries. It provides that when liquor is delivered to any other person than the consignee, or to another address, that the shipment of liquor may be seized.

Then, too, the Government intends to put a stop to the practise, which has grown rapidly, of using essence of ginger as a substitute for intoxicating liquors. A new clause is incorporated in the amendments providing that no essence, tincture, compound or preparation containing alcohol shall be sold except in bottles containing not more than two and a half ounces. A record of the sale must be kept by the manufacturer, merchant or druggist selling the preparation. Even purchasers of such preparations who use it for legitimate purposes must be included in the records of the manufacturer making the sale. Carrying out this clause, it is also provided that no pedlar shall dispose of any tincture or essence containing alcohol. Druggists are forbidden to dispose of any tincture, essence or extract of ginger except on the order of a properly qualified physician, and then only to a person having a permanent residence in the municipality in which the sale takes place, and after an affidavit has been taken that it is not required for beverage purposes. The regular penalties provided under the act will apply to violators of the foregoing regulations.

#### Patent Medicine Sale.

Further power is proposed for regulating the sale of patent medicines not sufficiently medicated to prevent their being used as an alcoholic beverage. Persons selling such preparations are liable to the penalties imposed in the act. It is left to the Provincial Board of Health to have an analysis made of patent medicines that it is believed contain more than 2 1-2 per cent. proof spirits and lack sufficient medication to prevent their being used as a beverage. If the board finds that the medicine lacks sufficient medication it may prohibit its sale as an offence against the O. T. A.

#### Wine for Churches.

It is proposed to give the Board of License Commissioners authority to appoint vendors for the purpose of importing wine for use in divine service, intoxicating liquor for medicinal purposes and intoxicating liquor for manufacturing or commercial purposes.

To correct a technicality the proposed amendments provide that the use of the ground floor of an apartment house, which may be re-

ferred to as an apartment block, shall not affect the character of the building, providing there is no internal communication between the portions used for business purposes and the other parts of the building above the ground floor.

#### Doctor's Prescription.

Prescriptions issued by doctors for the purchase of liquor shall, according to the amendments introduced, contain a certificate that the quantity of liquor mentioned is the minimum amount necessary for the patient for whom it is ordered. Vendors who supply liquor upon the prescription of a medical practitioner will attach to the bottle or package a label showing the name of the practitioner on whose prescription the liquor is supplied, the date, the kind and quantity of such liquor, and the name of the person for whom it is prescribed and the name of the vendor.

The amendment also provides that any person selling or drinking liquor on a street or in a public place may be arrested without a warrant. Within the meaning of the act, vessels navigating the Great Lakes shall be considered a "place" and the crew "occupants." A Judge who is hearing an appeal may send a case back to the Magistrate who first heard the case so that no conviction shall be quashed because some evidence was improperly admitted or rejected or some irregularity occurred at the hearing.

Manufacturers of cider will in future have to secure permits before selling any of their product.

A clause is added exempting from municipal business taxes brewery owners for the year 1918. Similar exemption was granted last year.

#### Preferential Voting.

The Opposition Leader, Mr. William Proudfoot, introduced a bill, which he has brought before the House at several former sessions, to allow municipalities to adopt preferential voting. He explained the purpose of his proposal at length, and after the Premier had replied briefly, withdrew the bill at the request of Sir William Hearst. The purpose of the bill was to provide that a Municipal Council could, by by-law, decide to use in any election for Mayor, Warden, Reeve or Alderman, where only one man was to be elected, a preferential ballot. Such a ballot would provide that in the event of more than two candidates running for such office, electors could designate their choice, as well as second and subsequent choices, in the alternative event of the first choice having been unsuccessful.

Sir William Hearst said that the Hare-Spence system, which was mentioned by the Opposition Leader as the method which might be adopted for redistribution of ballots, was not known to the Canadian laws. He thought the principle of the bill might be good, and it has received consideration in European countries, but he felt the Opposition Leader would agree that a greater education of the public was necessary.

Mr. Proudfoot said that he had accomplished something in having the Prime Minister reply to the bill. "If the Government is radical now, I think the Opposition can possibly claim some of the credit, and we may be able to keep them moving along radical lines," said Mr. Proudfoot.

#### Fish and Game Laws.

Hon. Mr. Macdormid introduced an amendment to the Fish and Game laws, allowing each hunter to take two deer for this year instead of one, and increasing the license fee for such privilege from \$2 to \$3. The open season for shooting moose north of the C.P.R. will open October 1, and the closed season on partridge is extended to 1920. Game dealers' license in cities is reduced from \$25 to \$10.

A bill, which Hon. Mr. Lucas said only corrects the act already in force, was introduced to amend the Power Commission Act. Hon. Mr. McGarry introduced bills to amend the Succession Duty Act, and for the raising of money for the credit of consolidated fund.

Mr. Thomas Crawford (Northwest Toronto) withdrew his bill for the city of Toronto, which was an amendment to the Assessment Act, the Premier promising that the whole matter would be considered by the special committee during recess. The bill was to have given the city authority to tax public service corporations.