

of the abolition of political patronage. He believed the parties were too much inclined to seek office for their own benefit instead of the welfare of the country. Mr. Bowman spoke strongly in favor of the initiative and referendum.

It was after 11 o'clock when Mr. John Calder of Oxford rose to make his maiden address in the House. He was followed by Dr. Jaques of Haldimand.

Conservative Member for Kenora Caustically Attacks Government on Temperance Act

"WILD FANATICISM HAS BROKEN FAITH"

Charges That Licensees Are Betrayed and Suggests Municipalities be Allowed to Decide Location of Vendors

Denouncing the Ontario Temperance Act as being brought about by wild fanatics, and as a pharisean measure, and one which deprived the people of their constitutional liberties, Col. H. A. C. Machin, Conservative member for Kenora, made a scathing attack on the Government in the Legislature last night. His attack had been advertised previously as to be one on the Prime Minister. While he did not specifically mention Sir William Hearst in his wholesale denunciation of the Government for passing the Ontario Temperance Act, and breaking faith with the people who elected in 1914, he drew a critical comparison between the Prime Minister and the former occupant of the position, the late Sir James Whitney.

Ignore Party Whips.

While stating that he was not in favor of going back to the open bar, Col. Machin came out strongly in favor of the Government, "in common decency," compensating those people who had been put out of business by the passing of the O. T. A. He urged members on both sides of the House to vote according to conscience when the amendments to the O. T. A. are introduced by the Government, and not to abide by the decision of party leaders. While he believed he may have taken his political life in his hands by making the address he did, Col. Machin said that he saw things differently since having been in France, and he would never again listen to the orders of party whips, if he was not personally in accord with the measure he was asked to support. He explained that, having made his promised attack, he would return to Ottawa to his military duties, carefully pointing out that his absence from the House would not be because he was seeking to get away from the issue. Col. Machin also suggested a system of Government vendors to sell liquor in each municipality.

Changes Its Platform.

The speaker declared that the Conservative party had been elected to power on a definite platform in 1914, and that in changing its policy the least it could do was to compensate the people it had put out of business. Up until the passing of the O. T. A. the liquor traffic had been a legitimate business in the Province. It had been encouraged by the Government, although restrictions were going into force, but it was understood that if the liquor business obeyed the laws of the land their vested rights would be protected. For years under Government control the liquor traffic had become a monopoly. He was sorry that when Hon. Mr. Rowell introduced a bill to abolish the bar a few years ago he had not supported it. That was the proper thing to do, for the people in the Province had

no use for the bar.

Col. Machin said he would like to know what amendments the Government intended introducing to the O. T. A. The great issue in the 1914 election had been the abolition of the bar, when Sir James Whitney, the then Premier, had gone to the country. "At that time we had in the Province as Leader of the Conservative party a man of marvelous personality and tried faith, a man whose vision was clear, who had to the greatest degree a fund of common horse sense, and it was under the leadership of the great Sir James Whitney that this party was returned in 1914 with the great majority it had," continued the speaker.

Whitney the Issue?

While the issue of "abolish the bar" had something to do with the result, it had been the marvellous personality and the splendid integrity and sane judgment of Sir James Whitney and the desire of the people of the Province to have a tried and trusted leader remain at the head of the Government that won the election. "The people at that time felt that under the Whitney Government the evils of intemperance were reduced to a minimum, and that his Government was properly enforcing the law."

However, Sir James Whitney died and the present Prime Minister was chosen. What took place in 1916 he did not know, but the O. T. A. was passed in 1916, the people being willing to do anything the politicians or anyone else said was right in the interests of winning the war.

"I think our friends the prohibitionists took a most unfair advantage in inflaming the minds of the people, already overwrought on the war, on the subject of prohibition and by stampeding the Government into passing the drastic legislation they did," declared Col. Machin.

Amazed at People's Attitude.

While he deplored the unfairness then, he regretted the savagery and offensiveness shown by the Government and its officers in persecuting people of the Province for breaches of the O. T. A. He was amazed that the people had stood for the persecution. For stealing chickens not valued at more than \$20, a person was fined \$20 and costs, but for having liquor a person was fined \$200 and costs as a minimum. "The penalties provided under the O. T. A. and the method by which they have been enforced are the most fanatical persecution that the Province has ever suffered from," he declared. It was fanatical paternalism that went so far as to even prevent housewives purchasing extracts of vanilla or ginger except under stringent regulations.

Col. Machin believed the Province was waiting for someone to speak out. While not a Moses, he believed that he was as fit as anyone else to speak on the subject.

The scheme which he suggested was that each municipality should have the right, by a majority vote, to say whether it would have a Government liquor vendor in its midst; that the Government, on approval being expressed, appoint one within sixty days; that only householders be allowed to secure liquor from these vendors, and then only by license; that the Government employ civil servants in these shops, and that the vendors deliver liquor in case lots to the home. He thought the Government should do this at 10 per cent. added on the cost, and that part of the profits be returned to the municipality earmarked for educational purposes, and that the other half be used by the Province for pensions for civil servants.