

under Government control? Surely every person will have a clear view on this question one way or the other. If you do, vote Yes; if you don't, vote No.

"(3) Do you want light beer sold in standard hotels? If you do, vote Yes; if you don't, vote No.

"(4) Do you want spirituous and malt liquors for consumption in the home sold under Government control? If so, vote Yes; if not, vote No.

#### Separate and Distinct Questions.

"Every question is separate and distinct; men may logically vote yes on some and no on others. Every person must vote on every question, and the full force of public opinion will therefore be expressed for and against each separate proposition.

"The ballot is so plain that when it has been read and studied no man or woman, no matter how uneducated or unlearned, need make a mistake. Some papers have criticized it on the ground that it may be confusing, but the men who wrote the editorials manifestly had not taken the trouble to read the questions; but I venture to say that there will not be a voter in the land that will not understand and appreciate the questions before voting day comes. Remember, the vote will not take place in a week or in six weeks, but in six months, and will be canvassed and discussed in the press, on the platform and in the pulpit.

"Recently in the State of California 47 separate propositions were submitted to the electors at the same time. In any leading city in this Province on election day a voter is handed a handful of ballots: ballots for Mayor, ballots for Controllers, ballots for Councillors, ballots for School Trustees, ballots for many by-laws, plebiscites on all kinds of questions. The act the voter will have to perform in marking this ballot is simplicity itself compared with the act the municipal voter has to perform every election day in our large towns and cities.

#### Consequences of the Voting.

"Then, as to what will happen in connection with the different votes on the different questions.

"If number 1 is answered in the negative, nothing, of course, is required. If it is answered in the affirmative, the old Liquor License Act will be revived and licenses will be issued under the License Board, as they were prior to the Ontario Temperance Act.

"If number 2 is answered in the negative, of course, nothing is required. The Ontario Temperance Act is not affected. If number 2 is answered in the affirmative, subsection 9 of section 2 of the act provides for what will happen. Light beer is to be sold by sales agencies established by the Board of License Commissioners, subject to such regulations as the board, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, may from time to time prescribe. It is impossible to say in advance what these regulations will be, or should be. They will, no doubt, vary from time to time, and will be calculated to remedy any abuses that may develop in connection with the sale of such beer. The License Board was given practically absolute authority under the Liquor License Act, 1915, to make regulations of all kinds in connection with the sale of liquor, and it is thought best to leave the conditions under which this beer should be sold in the event of this question being answered in the affirmative, to the board, rather than to attempt to set them out in the act.

"Then, if question 3 is answered in the negative, nothing needs to be done. If in the affirmative, subsection 10 provides what will happen—the board may issue licenses to standard hotels, subject to such regulations as they may make from time to time. They cannot, however, do this unless two things happen. The majority of all the electors of the Province voting, must vote 'yes' to question 3, and a majority of the electors voting in the municipality in which the license is to be granted must also vote 'yes' to this question. This makes it clear that the board cannot force beer in standard hotels in a locality opposed to it. Then, section 11 provides for local option in the matter of beer in standard hotels. It enables a municipality that has voted 'wet' on the referendum on this question, to vote itself 'dry,' and similarly, a municipality that has voted itself 'dry' to

vote itself 'wet,' but only if the majority of the electors in the Province has voted 'yes' to question 3. The act provides that no by-law for this proposition can be submitted until after December, 1921.

"The manner of sale in standard hotels is again left to regulation by the board. The hours of sale, the method of sale, whether over a bar or round table. Experience will determine what is best to be done. The board can deal by regulation with conditions that arise better than we

can now by statutory enactment decide what should be done.

"Suggestions have been made, without number, on different points as to licensing those entitled to buy liquor, and of every conceivable character. Many of them are unworkable, but it will be the duty of the board to make such regulations from time to time as will eliminate as far as possible and minimize evils that may arise.

#### The Fourth Question.

"Then with reference to the fourth question. Again, if the vote is in the negative, nothing is required. If the vote is in the affirmative, section 12 provides what will happen. Liquors may be sold by sales agencies, established by the License Commissioners, subject to such regulations as the board, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, may from time to time prescribe. As I have explained, it is felt wise to leave the manner of sale, the hours, restrictions, the conditions of all kinds, subject to regulation rather than to attempt to settle these conditions now. It is impossible to foresee what abuses may arise, therefore impossible to say the kind of regulations that may be best intended to minimize these abuses.

"It will be noted that there is nothing inconsistent between the propositions involved in questions 2, 3 and 4. If No. 2 only should be answered in the affirmative, then light beer could be sold only through Government agencies and for consumption in the home. If two and three should both be answered in the affirmative, then light beer would be sold through Government agencies and also in standard hotels. Should two, three and four all be answered in the affirmative, or should three and four be answered in the affirmative, light beer would be sold in standard hotels and in Government agencies, and hard liquors would be sold through Government agencies for consumption in the home.

#### Dominion Situation.

"I think it well that I should point out again, as I did the other day, that this Legislature has no power to prohibit the manufacture or importation of intoxicating liquor, that power resting entirely with the Dominion Parliament, and that Parliament must take responsibility for action in connection therewith. Any legislation we may enact, will, of course, be subject to such laws as are now in force or may hereafter be passed by the Dominion Government relating to the manufacture or importation of intoxicating liquor. The manufacture of liquor containing more than two and a half per cent. proof spirits, has been absolutely prohibited in Canada since December 31, 1918, and the importation into Canada of such liquor has been prohibited since December 24, 1917, so that, as long as the present law continues in force, neither light beer stronger than two and a half per cent. proof spirits, or any other liquor, can be manufactured in Ontario or imported into Ontario. If, however, the sale of any kind of liquor is authorized in Ontario, it would then be possible to sell whatever stocks of such liquors there might be on hand within the Province.

"In conclusion, I can only say that this Act has had the best thought that this Government is capable of. We have had the best legal advice and assistance we could secure. I believe it will enable the people of the Province to freely and frankly express their views and wishes in the ballot box. The wishes of the majority should and will be given effect to fairly and fearlessly by the Government. We have had one aim and object from first to