

PREMIER PLANS VOTE BY ONTARIO PEOPLE ON LIQUOR IMPORTS

Says Temperance Act Cannot be Properly Enforced While Interprovincial Trade Exists as at Present

DRURY GIVES FARMER AIMS

Tells Legislature History of Agrarian Movement — Does Not Propose to be "Stampeded" — Major Tolmie Urges Improved Educational Policy

If Ontario is to be made completely "dry" it must be by a referendum on the importation of liquor, was the effect of Premier Drury's announcement in the Legislature yesterday, when he spoke in the debate on the reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Enforcing the Act.

"Frankly I am not satisfied with conditions as they exist at the present time," said the Premier. "I believe that the Ontario Temperance Act cannot be enforced in any satisfactory manner as long as interprovincial trade exists. How to meet these conditions is another matter. I do not believe that we can meet them by stepping over the bounds of the law and taking to ourselves powers that do not belong to us. But I do believe if the temperance people of this Province will come together and will agree to ask for something—and if they will consider carefully the measures that have been put forward to bring about proper enforcement—and decide on a program, that this Government can do something, and that the people of this Province may well be appealed to to pronounce once more on interprovincial trade. I believe the principle of referendum—of submitting the issue to the people—is very well established."

The Premier touched on many other matters and criticized Hon. G. Howard Ferguson's remarks about Canada's relationship to the United States. He regretted that the Conservative Leader should make such remarks. It was "almost a political crime," he said, that any man should endeavor to stir up international animosity for political purposes. He touched on the eight-hour day and said the Government did not propose to be stampeded into any action on this great question. The Premier dwelt for some time on the history of the Farmers' movement, denying that it had sprung from dissatisfaction over the conscription issue. He also spoke of the roads policy and defended the separating of the Mines Department from Lands and Forests.

Major Tolmie, Windsor, the only Liberal speaker of the day, declared that, despite all protestations, the Government was still a class Government. It could be nothing else. He appealed for greater freedom in educational matters and a loosening of the control from the centre.

People Want Action.

While it was quite true that in the elections of 1911 he and Mr. Dewart were on the same platform, Premier Drury declared: "My friend was on the platform because the party had taken up the cause. I was on the platform because I had been in the cause before any party took it up."

"I want at this stage to defend this movement and this organization which has sprung up from it against the insinuation that the United Farmers of Ontario sprang from the anti-conscription field. That is not true. The organization was flourishing, was built on solid foundations, long before the conscription issue came into view. My own attitude on conscription is very well known. In 1917, when I found myself unfortunately a candidate by what was really a people's convention and in a position from which I could not with honor retire, my own attitude was that Canada was at that time committed to conscription and the thing had to be carried through." He read a manifesto which he had issued to the press at that time, in which he declared that to his utter astonishment he had been informed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had endorsed his candidature. "This was done," he wrote, "without my knowledge or consent, and indeed in direct opposition to my wishes. I cannot follow Sir Wilfrid Laurier if he proposes to repeal the Military Service Act or abandon our military forces at the front."

Not a Class Movement.

He characterized as "ungrounded" the charge that the U.F.O. was a class movement. "When you find this Government proposes any class legislation," he declared, "it will be time enough to make that charge."

"We have made an honest attempt to get rid of patronage," he went on. "We are going to make a further attempt. We believe we can. You cannot get rid of the evils of patronage while you leave the recommendation in the hands of the member for the appointees' constituency. If the Angel Gabriel represented the purest constituency in Ontario he could not recommend in a manner disinterested a man for public appointment. (Applause from both sides of the House.)"

"We invite the co-operation of the gentlemen on the other side of the House," Hon. Mr. Drury continued. "We invite you to come to us with your suggestions. We invite full and free discussion in the House of these suggestions, and I think among us we can loosen up a whole lot of these unreasonable Parliamentary rules that have grown up more in the last forty years than ever before when the House has resolved itself into two cast-iron sections."

The Premier proceeded to twit Hon. Messrs. Dewart and Ferguson with their apparent anxiety to introduce monkey wrenches and claw hammers into legislative machinery at the very outset of the session. He confessed his regret that he had not seen in either address from the other side of the House any promise of co-operation with the Government. "Of course," he commented, "I did not greatly wonder at it." Mr. Dewart he accused of introducing a lot of extraneous matter for no other purpose than "to stir up feeling, embarrass progress, and to draw a red herring across the trail."

Premier Drury said he did not think that the eight-hour day principle could be introduced as a Provincial enactment. In his opinion it would have to be Dominion, interprovincial, even international, because it was conceivable to him that capital would leave a nation with eight-hour day legislation for a neighboring nation in which the regulation was not on the statute books. In considering the question, with which he was in hearty sympathy, the Government would move with all care and precaution. He was not going to be stampeded on