

people, and get their verdict, and do so in an absolutely non-partisan way."

It was all very well, he said, to introduce technical objections. It would be better to introduce common sense in the consideration of temperance legislation. "The man who plays politics with an issue as serious as this, as urgent as this, is doing so against that which is his duty."

#### Watson for Resolution.

Edgar Watson (North Victoria) made a real old-time temperance speech, picturing the horrors of strong drink. Getting closer to the present issue, he described the benefits wrought by the Ontario Temperance Act. If a man could take liquor without doing himself any harm or any person else harm, he would not complain, but such a thing he regarded as next to impossible. Bill 26, he said, might to some extent be a bill walking on crutches. He had tried in vain to see some reason why the bill should not be brought in by a private member. He said that manoeuvring on this resolution was "playing politics," and it was no time to play politics. In submitting a referendum the question was being submitted to the last court of appeal, and he favored the resolution.

J. A. Calder (North Oxford), a Liberal, said he would support the resolution, and he looked to the Government to get the legal points settled. J. C. Brown (North Middlesex) spoke in favor of the bill.

Major J. C. Tolmie spoke for three minutes just before the adjournment at 6 o'clock, but his brief remarks were applauded to the echo by the House.

He hit out without preliminary remarks. "We all know the advantages of temperance legislation," he said. "I think we are agreed to that. This question has been submitted once to the people, and the people have spoken. The Province of Ontario has now gone as far as it can go. It must be finished through the Dominion. It would be a great shame for us if we did not give the people the privilege to decide on this question now. I come from a riding where it wasn't particularly dry on the last vote, but I am supporting this resolution, and will vote for it." (Loud applause.)

R. R. Hall (Parry Sound) also supported the resolution, and was the first Liberal to rise to speak. He announced his support, and was greeted warmly by the House.

J. Walter Curry (Southeast Toronto) was another Liberal to support the resolution. He maintained that the elimination of importation would make it easier to enforce the law on illicit traffic.

Wilson Crockett (South Wentworth), the second Labor man to speak, supported the resolution, basing his position on the plank in his party platform on initiative and referendum. The people should have a chance to pass on the question.

### Scolds Government For Its Attitude

Mr. Brackin (West Kent), in moving the amendment, was ironically critical of the Government for not bringing in the resolution as a Government measure. It was an admission, in the matter being brought up by a private member, that the Government had no policy and was unprepared to advise people on this great issue. Even a Farmer Government might play politics, and even this Government had not reached the stage where it was willing to sacrifice its life on this great problem. Rather than have his members torn between the great love for himself and the great love for principle the Premier had suffered the measure to be introduced by a private member, and make it a free-for-all.

"While the Premier may not be father of the child he takes a wonderful interest in its future," continued Mr. Brackin. "I have risen to move an amendment, not for preventing a vote of the question of importation. I would be the last in the world to put a stumbling block in the way." He said that he had received numerous letters on the question, including some from Ben Spence. (Laughter from the Government side.) "I remember only a few months ago honorable members opposite followed at his chariot wheels," said Mr. Brackin. He said that many legal men had stated that

Bill 26 was not applicable to Ontario. "Yet we have not received one word from the Attorney-General's Department."

#### Challenge to Raney.

Mr. Brackin commented caustically upon the opinions expressed by Sir George Foster and Hon. N. W. Rowell. He invited the Attorney-General to go into the high courts and tell it must be the law because Foster and Rowell said so. There was also the difference of opinion between the temperance organizations themselves. "It makes it abundantly clear that we should not go to the expense of hundreds of thousands of dollars on this question being put to a vote without further assurance, and with the danger of having it thrown out by the courts later. It may be urged here that this amendment would delay the taking of the vote. There is nothing to prevent getting a stated case immediately. The Attorney-General could ask the courts to expedite it. There is nothing to prevent getting a decision from the Supreme Court in two months. A month more, and if the protestations of the men at Ottawa are sincere, we could have the referendum."

Hon. Mr. Raney was inclined to smile and Mr. Brackin twitted him, remarking that he thought he (Mr. Raney) "had been so long connected with those things which drive away mirth that he would never be able to laugh again."

#### "Don't Hand Them a Gold Brick."

With the passing of the resolution, he continued, it would not be necessary to come back to the Legislature for another resolution. That was provided for in the amendment. "I am in favor of getting it to the people. It is most desirable that it should be submitted to the people. Give the people what they want, but don't hand them a gold brick. Do not have them go to the expense, either Provincial or Federal, and then have the courts decide that this law does not hold in Ontario. There is not a man in this House who wants the people deprived of the right of voting on this question, but they want absolute assurance that they will not meet with the situation I have outlined.

"The business of this Province has precedence in the courts of this Province. We can get a decision long before this year is out, and the question can be settled once and for all. Those who vote for this amendment will be charged with being foes of temperance. But it is better for the people, for the Government, and it is better for temperance, for the people to know that their votes are going to count for something."

#### Pleads on Soldiers' Behalf.

Sergt.-Major McNamara, Riverdale, put his attitude quite frankly and abruptly before the House in the words: "I want my beer." The soldiers of Ontario, he declared, had gone away to fight for the preservation of the liberties of those who had remained at home, and while they were away they themselves were deprived of their liberty of enjoying a glass of liquor.

"If you attempt to make this country absolutely bone-dry," he declared, "you are doing one of the worst things that can be recorded in the history of this country." He held up a cartoon, illustrative of a contented workman, smoking his pipe and at liberty to enjoy a glass of beer, saying: "Give me my half-pint, my ballot and my day off, and Red flaggers and Red agitators don't interest me."

As representing a constituency containing 75 per cent. returned soldiers and their dependents, he asked the House "in all sincerity and honesty of purpose not to deprive us men, and more especially men in my condition, of what we justly consider our requirements for the prolongation of our future days."

#### Flooded With Literature.

Mr. Hill pointed out that, while they were being asked by the Government to vote for a referendum measure, members on all sides of the House had been bombarded with literature and newspapers from temperance enthusiasts pleading with them not to enact a referendum measure at this juncture. In addition to the uncertainty of the legal position, he made vigorous objection to what he termed the "subterfuge" and "camouflage" in which the