

# DRURY WILL OPPOSE REFERENDUM VOTE

Premier Drury will personally oppose the submission to the Province of a referendum on the question of Government-controlled sale of liquor. Without making specific reference to the question, which, upon the motion of K. K. Homuth, Labor member for South Waterloo, will shortly be submitted to the Legislature, he stated unequivocally his mind on the subject before a deputation of prohibitionists who waited on his Cabinet yesterday.

"My opinion has been and is," he said, "that the Ontario Temperance Act is on trial, and I am prepared to resist attempts at the present time for new votes by the people, contemplating its modification. I have held I must resist such attempts because it was essential that the law, for a while at least, must remain undisturbed. We are getting wonderful results from it in the amelioration of social conditions in our Province."

Headed by Father L. Minehan, Rev. Ben Spence, Dr. T. Albert Moore and Mayor Cooper of Clinton, the deputation laid before the Government the combined views of prohibition organizations in Ontario, prepared the night previous by their legislative committees. They asked for abolition of the exemption at present given under the O. T. A. to the sale of native wines, a Province-wide investigation into the effects of distribution of intoxicating wines and a change in the system of issuing liquor prescriptions.

While promising the serious consideration of his Government to the requests put forward, Premier Drury, in turn, asked prohibitionists generally to take two things into their consideration. He asked them to consider whether they thought it would be wise to take the O.T.A. out of the special sphere which it had come to occupy—that of alteration only upon approval of the electorate at large—and whether they felt it would be advisable to submit a referendum on the question of distribution and sale of native wines.