

Wednesday, March 4th

VOTE ON 4.4 BEER TO BE TAKEN TODAY; TORY RANKS SOLID

Even John Joynt, Pronounced
"Dry," Says He'll Vote
With Party

PREMIER'S ADDRESS NEXT

With the announcement in the Legislature last evening of John Joynt, Conservative member for North Huron—a strong temperance man from an overwhelmingly dry riding—that he would support the Government in the division on the 4.4 beer amendments, it became almost certain that the Government will present a solid front in the vote today.

To Support Stronger Beer.

Recognized as one of the most pronounced "drys" in the Legislature, Mr. Joynt was counted as one of those who might bolt the Conservative party on the 4.4 per cent. beer issue, but last night he gave as his answer to newspaper queries of "What will John Joynt do?" that he had "unlimited faith in the Attorney-General, Mr. Nickle." Another Conservative dry member, Aaron Sweet, Dundas, stated that he could not vote want of confidence in the Government on the Sinclair or Raney amendments.

From the opening day, Feb. 10, the debate on the Address, with 4.4 beer featuring all discussions, has raged in the Legislature, and is to be concluded this afternoon with an address from Premier Ferguson, who last night moved the adjournment. After Mr. Ferguson speaks, the division will be taken on the two amendments—one accusing Mr. Ferguson of a breach of faith with the people and the other condemning the proposed alteration in the O. T. A.

Expects Big Majority.

There seems to be not the least doubt but that the Government will have an overwhelming majority and count among its supporters members from the Liberal group. Harold Fisher, K.C. (Liberal, Ottawa), one of the members who was to vote behind Mr. Sinclair, had to leave last night for Ottawa.

Those who took part in the debate yesterday were: F. W. Wilson (Conservative, Windsor); W. G. Weichell (Conservative, North Waterloo)—both of whom vigorously criticized the O.T.A.—W. G. Willson (Conservative, Niagara

Falls); A. Belanger (Liberal, Russell), and Aaron Sweet (Conservative, Dundas).

Wants Lower Hydro Rates.

W. G. Willson (Conservative, Niagara Falls) pleaded for lower Hydro rates for his city to offset higher cost of transportation. Mr. Willson criticized the export of pulpwood, and urged that Canadian natural resources should be developed in Canada.

Mr. Willson said he believed the conditions confronting the Government warranted the Prime Minister in giving the people something different on temperance lines from what they had now. The spirit of lawlessness prevailed in the land, he declared, and he believed that in giving the people the mild beverage proposed it would satisfy the people, and that they would not make home-made concoctions. It would do away with bootlegging to a great extent, the speaker believed. He announced his support of the proposal.

A. Belanger, Liberal member for Russell, opened with the admission that he was, what the Prime Minister had termed last session, a "doctrinaire." "The encroachment on personal liberty," said Mr. Belanger, "has resulted in making this Province the laughing-stock not only of the other Provinces of Canada, but the whole British Empire. We have in Ontario hypocrisy legalized. We have liquor

emporiums which are called drug dispensaries. We have our doctors who have become the menials of the sons of Bacchus, and we have an honest people who are forced, in order to enjoy their personal liberty, to resort to subterfuge—yes, to silly, debasing subterfuge."

"Have to Sit in Cellars."

Another inherent British right which had been abrogated, the member for Russell stated, was the right of the trader to advertise his wares. The producers of native wines in Ontario "had to sit in their cellars waiting for their clientele."

Mr. Belanger criticized the Government's refusal last session to take into their confidence on the proposed plebiscite questions the representatives of the people in the Legislature, although they afterward called in the moderationists and prohibitionists to help them frame the questions. What standing had either of these two bodies, demanded Mr. Belanger, as representatives of the people?

The Government's measure to assist the municipalities in meeting unemployment conditions Mr. Belanger condemned as a half-measure to meet a serious situation.

More Treasury Scandals?

He proceeded to state his conviction that the Government could not let rest the Treasury Department scandals where they had been left last year, and he believed the Public Accounts Committee ought to start right in where it left off. This, he urged, should be done in the very interests of public morality, and not for the purpose of convicting any individual or past Government—which, he said, he believed to be innocent.

Aaron Sweet, Conservative member for Dundas, said that he was glad to see that steps were being taken to improve the standard of Ontario dairy products. After expressing the hope that Hydro might be extended to Eastern rural Ontario, Mr. Sweet touched upon the O.T.A. issue. "I have decided," he said, "to withhold my criticism of that measure until it comes before the House. I do not want to pile up a lot of ammunition without knowing what I am firing at." He did not agree with everything the Government had done or would do, but he felt that he had not any alternative that would be any better, and he proposed on this vote to stand by the Government.

Wage Garnishment.

Frank W. Wilson (Conservative, Windsor) devoted most of his speech to a criticism of the Ontario Temperance Act, but before coming to that portion of his address made two or three suggestions along other lines of legislation. He thought the Board of Workmen's Compensation should tell applicants why applications were refused instead of merely offering the formal notice of refusal, as the board gave reasons when the member took up the grievance.

Mr. Wilson said it was not his intention to introduce a bill to abolish the right of wage garnishment, but he thought when claims were made for small debts and money attached, the court should hold the money until all claims were in, and if there was not enough to go around, the wage-earner should come first. Furthermore, he opposed the present practice of permitting imprisonment for debt for small sums.

Coming to the Ontario Temperance Act, he claimed that the plebiscite showed a falling off in support of the act. He hoped the day would soon come when in Ontario people got back "on the proper highway," and had local option with Government control. "Whether or not my resolution (favoring Government control) passes at this session, I intend to introduce it at the next," he said.

Says Majority Didn't Vote.

Referring to the criticism of Mr. Raney that the Premier had been getting "on and off the water wagon," Mr. Wilson claimed it was the public which had been "getting off the water wagon." As to criticism that people did not know just exactly what form of Government con-

trol they would have obtained last October, Mr. Wilson said that 49 per cent. of the vote was for the unknown rather than the act which they knew all about. Fifty-two per cent. did not vote at all, and Mr. Wilson was confident that most of them were not prohibitionists.

The falling off in support of the act was due to the fact that the principle of prohibition was wrong, Mr. Wilson said. The former Attorney-General, proceeded Mr. Wilson, should know as a law officer that the act could not be enforced against public opinion, "unless you want to have a little revolution on your hands."

The Windsor member quoted largely from statistics in an endeavor to show that crime had increased in Ontario, and was greater than in Quebec and other Provinces. It was not fair to let the majority rule in everything, he declared.

"Drink for Poor Man."

He had not heard any one say that 4.4 per cent. beer would cure all the ills of the liquor traffic, but it would be better than the present act. He scored the evil done to young people by "blind pigs," and thought anything that would minimize this should be supported by everybody.

He did not take kindly to the idea that this beer would be sold only in dining-rooms of hotels; he wanted it as a drink for the poor man.

So far as the Government had erred at all in the direction of the proposed bill, the error had been in the direction of having too little alcohol in the new drink, he said. He announced his intention of supporting the bill.

After defending Sir Adam Beck against criticisms, and declaring for a tariff to stop unemployment, William G. Weichell (Conservative, North Waterloo) devoted most of his speech to an attack on the Ontario Temperance Act. In connection with unemployment he urged people to buy goods made in Canada, and said that women should remember they should be satisfied with made-in-Canada clothes, especially when so many are walking the streets seeking work. He, himself, he added, would not buy wearing apparel which was not made in Canada.

Would Abolish "Scripts."

"I am satisfied with small mercies," was his summing up of the proposed amendment to the Ontario Temperance Act. He said he would support the amendment because he believed it was a step toward true temperance. He said he wished the Government would cut out doctors' prescriptions. He deplored secret drinking, and said that the home today was being debauched in many cases. The act did not prohibit. "It is a farce; it is a sham; it simply drives the evil further underground," he declared.

"I go to Montreal, and the people seem to wear a sort of happy smile. I go to the hotels here, and there is a strained look. It is sad when you come to think of it," he said, amid laughter.

John Joynt, Conservative member for North Huron, was the last speaker of the evening. He accused Ottawa of callousness in its refusal to join with Ontario in assisting the Province out of unemployment difficulties, and declared it was time Ottawa called in its immigration agents in the Old Country.

Wants Lower Taxes.

Mr. Joynt thought some effort ought to be made by the present Government to reduce taxation, and to reduce the cost of education, which, in the rural sections, was bearing heavily on the farmers. In the same connection he thought there ought to be a general survey of the educational institutions of the Province, and no more technical schools built until that survey was made.

The member for North Huron spent considerable time criticizing the increase of commission rates on the sale of a carload of cattle from \$10 to \$17, which he ascribed to the entry of the U.F.O. into the field at West Toronto. He created considerable amusement in the House by a description of the U.F.O. offices, with so many clerks there, he said, that they fell over each other. If he were getting as much money as J. J. Morrison, he said, he would go down there and sell for half.

In a general criticism of the efforts of certain organizers to form co-operative marketing associations, Mr. Joynt poured some severe criticism on the principals of the United Grain Growers, who, he said, got all the benefits in the form of salaries that were to be obtained from it, and particularly upon Aaron Shapiro, the California co-operative expert, who spoke at several Government functions in Toronto during the regime of the Drury Government.

He Attacks Shapiro.

Referring to two co-operative ventures floated by Mr. Shapiro in Connecticut, Mr. Joynt levelled such harsh terms as "swindle," declaring that a potato venture had fallen flat, and that Mr. Shapiro had "roped in" 4,500 farmers in a tobacco co-operative venture, in which one of the principals behind the organization received a \$25,000-a-year salary, and two or three others \$10,000. Mr. Joynt said he knew what he was talking about, because some of these farmers owed him money.

Coming to the question of the proposed increase in sessional indemnities and Cabinet Ministers' salaries, Mr. Joynt said that while he agreed with the proposed \$2,000 per year increase for the Ministers, he thought the members ought to work this year for the present \$1,400, and present the whole of the proposed \$600 increase to the unemployed.

"I don't hear any one applaud that," said Mr. Joynt.

Mr. Wilson (Windsor)—Perhaps we cannot afford it as well as you can.

Speaking upon the proposed O.T.A. amendments, Mr. Joynt accused a Toronto newspaper of going to a prominent Liberal in his riding to secure names of Conservative "dries" from whom to get anti-Government interviews. To newspaper queries as to what he intended to do, coming from a dry riding, Mr. Joynt said that his answer was that he had overwhelming faith in Attorney-General Nickle, whose name, as a leader, he linked with Martin Luther, John Knox, John Wesley, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others.

Cares Nothing About Future.

"I care nothing about my political future," he said, "but I do care something about my integrity and what I believe to be right. How can I support the