

**Relies on Administration.**

"Thirdly, the Government relies for the success of the law more upon wise and efficient administration than upon statutory enactments, which, because they are of necessity expressed in legal terms, are not easily understood by the public, and because they are fixed and inflexible, cannot be adapted to the varying and changing conditions that have to be met. The bill, therefore, does not purport to establish in detail the completed system of liquor control. It deals rather in broad principles and confides the application of these principles within well-defined limitations to the Control Board.

"This legislation follows strictly the policy enunciated by the Government to the public during the recent election campaign. Its object is to eliminate as far as possible illegal trafficking in intoxicating liquors that has in the past led to such widespread and serious abuse.

"It is the sincere desire on the part of the Government to put into operation in connection with this difficult problem a system of handling liquor that will meet with general public approval, and thereby create a more wholesome respect for the laws of the Province.

**Hopes for Public Support.**

"The Government does not claim perfection for the method provided for in the legislation, and there will be inevitably some abuses and unforeseen situations arise, but it is our earnest hope that a policy founded upon a sane, reasonable basis will have the support of the great bulk of public opinion, so that, in the light of experience, it may be from time to time improved and made more effective in attaining better conditions that all good citizens desire.

"The new act will be known as the Liquor Control Act.

**Twofold Purpose.**

"Its purposes are twofold: First, to prohibit transactions in liquor except through Government agencies and under Government control. Second, to provide the organization and the means by which such prohibition and control may be made effective.

"The Government has already repeatedly expressed its view that wise and effective administration makes more for the success of a law than a multiplicity of rigid and irritating legal enactments.

"It will therefore be found that while the bill lays down definite broad lines of policy and limitation, very wide discretion is given to the Commission to improve the situation from time to time by regulation as in their judgment may appear to be best in the public interest.

**Permits Needed.**

"No liquor hereafter may be purchased by any one without a personal permit. The Commission may issue a permit to any person a resident of the Province and upward of 21 years of age, to purchase liquor for beverage purposes. This permit may be suspended by a Magistrate before whom prosecution takes place; it may be cancelled by the County Judge before whom the trial is held, and any permit may be cancelled by the Commission at their discretion without giving any reason.

"All liquor must be purchased through the Government agency. Permits are of five classes:

"Individual permit to a resident of Ontario.

"Individual permit for any period not exceeding one month to a tourist or temporary resident.

"Special permit to physicians, dentists, veterinarians and those in scientific or mechanical pursuits.

"A special permit for ministers of the Gospel for sacramental purposes.

"The board has further authority to issue a special permit, as authorized by the regulations, for the purchase of liquor for the special purpose named in the permit."

"There, I might say, Mr. Speaker, that we propose to give the widest possible authority and discretion to this Commission, a Commission in which we believe, and in which we believe the public have unbounded confidence and faith.

"Druggists are not permitted to dispense liquor.

"Breweries and distilleries can only sell in the Province to the board, under a permit from the board.

"No liquor may be consumed in a public place. All liquor must be consumed in the residence or temporary home of the purchaser.

"The Commission will establish stores for the sale of any or all classes of liquor at such points as they may deem best in the public interest. That means that they may establish a store for the sale of beer only, or for the sale of beer and wine, or for the sale of all classes of liquor. The object we have is that the Commission should study conditions and meet public conditions with the least possible offense and a minimum of harm in the community.

**Local Option Respected.**

"No store may be established in any municipality where the Canada Temperance Act is in force, nor where a by-law under local option had prohibited the sale of liquor at the time of the coming into force of the Ontario Temperance Act in 1916.

"Light beer, as defined by the act, and which is ordinarily known as 4.4 beer, may be sold in such places as the board designates, under permit from the board.

"There shall be no public advertising of liquors.

"No person, except with the permission of the board, shall have in his possession in this Province any liquor not purchased from the board. This section takes care of the private stock that any citizen may already have that is legally purchased, and gives the board absolute control over all the liquor that is found in Ontario.

"The element of private gain in liquor transactions has been entirely eliminated.

"The board may appoint a staff of inspectors, and this staff, in co-operation with the Provincial Police and local constables, shall co-operate in the enforcement of the law.

"All prosecutions are conducted under the department of the Attorney-General of the Province.

**No Option of Fine.**

"Any person hereafter found selling liquor in Ontario will be imprisoned for the first offense without the option of a fine. There is a great variety of penalties for other offenses under the act. In other words, the bootlegger goes to jail. A man who sells one bottle illegally is just as much a bootlegger as the man who sells a whole case illegally. The purpose the Government has is

to control this situation and see if we can work out an administration of this problem in a way that will improve general conditions throughout the whole Province.

"By providing that no one shall keep liquor in Ontario without the permission of the Commission, it will be much easier to convict those who now keep liquor in their residence for illegal sale. The person having it must show that he purchased it from the Commission or by some legal method before the coming into force of this act.

**Officials in Brewery Warehouses.**

"By providing for imprisonment for first offense for the illegal salesman, we hope to make an effective effort to get rid of the bootlegger. It is intended that an official of the Commission shall be stationed in every brewery warehouse, and where beer is ordered by the case from a vendor the vendor transmits the order to the official in the brewery, who will check it out and see to its proper delivery.

"So we will not have promiscuous peddling of beer in the streets of the centres of population or on the back-concession lines of Ontario. Any one who wants to purchase it can do so in a legal way, and, under the Commission, a man who is found to abuse it can be denied the privilege altogether.

"There shall be one appeal to a County Judge for any conviction, and, where imprisonment is imposed, further redress must be sought by a certiorari, unless the Attorney-General certifies that the question involved is of sufficient importance to render it advisable to have the opinion of the higher court.

"I desire to emphasize that the board is supreme in its powers, and its actions cannot be reviewed or interfered with by any court or by the Government.

**Praise for Board.**

"The Province is fortunate in being able to secure the services of outstanding men of unquestionable ability and integrity who, from a desire to improve conditions in Ontario, are willing to undertake this great public service. The Government is content, and we are confident the public will be satisfied, to leave to this board the widest possible powers to enable it to handle a problem of grave importance and infinite difficulty.

"I have only sought in this brief statement to indicate the salient features of the legislation that deal with questions of general policy, that

the public may realize that the Government is adhering to its public declarations with regard to the question of the administration of the liquor problem.

**Wants Ample Discussion.**

"I hope," he said, "that in this House, and in the press, and throughout the public, we shall have a full discussion and every consideration of the bill, a discussion of a helpful character. And there has been a conspicuous absence of that kind of consideration even since the first of December. But the people have expressed their will emphatically. Now, I say, Mr. Speaker, with all the force and earnestness I have, that when the public has given a mandate to the Government to undertake this task, it surely is the duty of every man to try to co-operate with the Government."

He invited the members of the Opposition to co-operate with the Government in the consideration of the bill while it was before the House. He wanted them, however, to stick to the contents of the bill, and not go back to the arguments of the campaign.

"It is no use attempting to thresh out the old straw," he continued, "the old straw that we have been attempting to thresh out for years and years, and is now being further threshed every Sunday down at Massey Hall."

**To Stay for Term.**

He argued that it was in the Government's interest to present the most efficient bill, intimating that it was on this work that the Government would be judged. "This Government," he said, "is going to be here until the end of this term, and we are going to try and improve conditions, so that we will be here as long as we like. So that the Government is not going to be looking after private interests. The Government is interested in safeguarding the public, in attending to the best interests of the public at large."

Mr. Raney then asked when the bill would be given its second reading. "Would it be on next Tuesday?" he asked.

"Yes," replied the Premier, "I should say next Tuesday. I think we can fix the date, and"—here he glanced up at the crowded galleries—"perhaps we can fix a fee. I am sure that members of the Opposition will co-operate in trying to expedite the other business of the House so that all possible time can be given the discussion of this bill."