

"Flood Province With Liquor."

One of the most objectionable features of the Government-control bill, Mr. Lethbridge continued, was that it was proposed to flood the Province with liquor. "The Premier," he said, "says it will bring us back to the old days, when convention made it taboo for young people to indulge in liquor. I know something of the old days, and if it is going to get us back to those days I think it should be the last thing to do. I have lived and associated with young people, and as I go up and down this Province I see a wonderful improvement under the O.T.A. on the days prior to the O.T.A."

Mr. Lethbridge went on to deal with the Government's estimate of \$7,000,000 a year profit from the control sale. If, as the Government said, beer was sold at cost, said he, it meant that, to produce that revenue, \$50,000,000 worth of hard liquor would be consumed. Toronto, with its population of 600,000, would have to consume \$7,998,000 worth of liquor to produce its share of the revenue. And his village of Glencoe, with 900 inhabitants, would have to drink \$12,000 worth of liquor to provide its share of the profits. "Why even to think of it makes me shudder," said he.

"If we succeed in taking the business away from the bootlegger, would you object to the Province accepting the profit?" asked Mr. Ferguson.

"That's an awful big 'if' there," retorted Mr. Lethbridge.

"Well, let us try," said Mr. Ferguson.

"I'll do all in my power," replied Mr. Lethbridge.

Powers of Board.

Mr. Lethbridge continued to draw the attention of the House to Section 12 of the bill, Subsection B, which reads: "The board may, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, (b) appoint such officers, inspectors, vendors and agents as the board may deem necessary in the administration of this act, and by regulation prescribe the terms of their employment, fix their salaries or remuneration, and define their respective duties and powers."

Here, said he, the board was empowered to choose officers, servants, etc., but with all the appointments subject to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

"This, to my mind," Mr. Lethbridge continued, "is not taking the appointments out of politics. This is the worst principle in the whole bill. If you're going to have a Commission, that Commission should be above the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council." Why was not a similar provision for appointment of Hydro men included in the Hydro-Electric Act? he asked.

Meeting in Glencoe.

Mr. Lethbridge continued to tell of an incident in which he figured in Glencoe. He was invited to a meeting called, so he was told, to decide whether or not the village wanted a liquor store. At the gathering he was told that the information which resulted in the meeting had been received from the Conservative Association of Middlesex. And the information was that if they wanted a liquor store the application would have to be in the hands of the Government by Jan. 25.

"I told the meeting," he said, "that the Prime Minister would know better than send out word: 'Get busy if you want a store.' But you can see what's in the mind of some people and the danger." At any rate, a telegram was sent to the Premier from the meeting, he added, and the reply was that there was no truth in the association's information.

Wants Sale by Glass.

Frank W. Wilson, Conservative member for Windsor East, registered a strong plea for sale of beer in hotel dining-rooms and by the glass. He declared that, while it was not feasible that the bill should include "everything," the maximum success for it would only be obtained by "starting it out on the road" with a maximum of sympathy behind it.

Mr. Wilson pictured Detroit—across from the Border Cities—as "a million and a half of thirsty souls in dry territory, who are going to flock down on us for their drinks." These people, he said, would buy beer "illegally" if they could not get it by the glass in a legal manner. The situation would be a serious one for Windsor and the Border Cities, at least, he contended, if the Government did not do the "right thing."

Praises O.T.A.

M. E. Scott (Liberal, South Oxford) said that he had no constructive criticism to offer of the bill at the present stage; that he would vote against it, but would support it if enacted. As for the O.T.A., he said, it was the best temperance measure his riding had ever had. "I'll not say much for the enforcement, as far as this Government is concerned," he declared. He hoped that under the Control Act the enforcement would be directed to prevent drunkenness.

The Speaker checked Mr. Scott up, saying "he was speaking off the subject."

"I was just thinking the same," said Mr. Scott, amiably.

One objection to the new bill, he said, in conclusion, was that it delegated too great powers to the Commission.

Edmond Proulx (Liberal, Prescott) rose to say that he felt the place for Mr. Raney to introduce his amendment was when the bill was in committee. He emphasized his stand in favor of Government control, and declared that, since the Raney amendment, if carried, meant that the Control Bill be thrown out, he would therefore be compelled to vote against that amendment.

It seemed again as if the division would be taken. But then Leslie W. Oke (U.F.O., East Lambton) rose to speak. On the suggestion of the Premier, he adjourned the debate, to continue today.

AMENDMENT SOUGHT TO CONSIGNMENT ACT IN ONTARIO HOUSE

Proper Books, Open to Consignor, to Be Kept by Commission Merchants

INTRODUCE PEDDLER BILL

While introducing several measures yesterday, the Government brought in an act to amend the Fruit and Vegetable Consignment Act. This, Premier Ferguson explained, was aimed at certain commission merchants who, it was thought, were not conducting their business with proper methods.

It provides that all who accept consignments as commission merchants shall keep proper books, show the sales and transactions, and that the books are to be available to the consignor.

An amendment to the Statutes Act, 1919, brought in by the Government, gives the University of Toronto power to guarantee debentures of the Conservatory of Music to the extent of \$300,000.

F. T. Smye (Conservative, Hamilton West) introduced as a private bill an act respecting the licenses of hawkers, peddlers and transient traders, a measure practically similar to an act which failed to pass committee last year. Mr. Smye's bill, which is not mandatory, allows municipalities to charge license fees according to an increased schedule set out, with a maximum of \$250.

It provides for the licensing of salesmen who sell on a future-delivery basis, and it provides exemption from license for salesmen dealing in nursery stock, medical and scientific books, sewing machines and office equipment machines.