

Friday, March 25th

Liquor Control Bill Passed by Committee With Few Revisions

Raney Raises Strong Objection to Dropping O. T. A. Enforcement Penalties, and Urges Premier to Retain Use of Spotters to Halt Bootlegging

**STANDARD HOTELS
ON SAME STATUS**

Only Fifty-five Members Present When Final Forty-five Clauses, Left Over From Wednesday, Are Rushed Through in Little Over One Hour

Ontario's new Liquor Control Act passed the committee stage in the Legislature at 11.25 last night.

This the third step in its process of enactment was greeted with as much acclaim as the 33 Government supporters in the Legislative Chamber at the time were able to muster. Interest in the bill—at fever heat on the occasion of its second reading, but waning noticeably when it went into committee on Wednesday—was at ebb tide last night. Never at any time were there more than 55 of the 112 elected representatives of the people in their seats. The Opposition could muster but nine members—two Progressives and seven Liberals—when Hon. Joseph Thompson, Chairman of the committee, reported the bill. One hour and twenty minutes only was required to adopt the 45 clauses left over from Wednesday's debate.

Leaders Bear the Brunt.

Premier Ferguson, Liberal Leader W. E. N. Sinclair and Hon. W. E. Raney, Progressive Leader, bore last night, as on previous occasions, the burden of discussion. Mr. Raney particularly objected to the dropping from the new act of the O.T.A. enforcement clauses, emphasizing the point that, regardless of the Government's view on the question, "spotters" would be required to "get the bootlegger," and that such "spotters" should be afforded "police protection" under the new act.

The Prime Minister moved an amending clause to the bill so as to provide for standard hotels under Government control a status similar to that had under the Ontario Temperance Act. In the process of drafting the bill this section, the Premier explained, had been inadvertently omitted.

Under the Control Act, the Liquor Transportation Act stands repealed. Mr. Raney inquired why. Attorney-General Price said that in past years this act had not been used to any extent; that sections in the O.T.A. governing the transportation of liquor had been used instead. The new Control Act on this point, he stated, was drawn more "strictly" than the other two measures combined.

Before the adjournment of the House the Prime Minister informed the House that the Government would give very serious consideration to the suggestions of both Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Raney.

Bootlegger Forgotten.

R. F. Miller, Liberal member for Haldimand, "got off" some unconscious humor when after the bill had been reported he rose to inquire the definition of the word "bootlegger."

"There is nothing about it in the act," he said, seriously. "I think the Attorney-General should tell us the meaning."

"Get a dictionary," advised Premier Ferguson. "You'll find the meaning there."

"I've looked in the dictionary," said Mr. Miller, as serious as ever. "In the almanac, too."

"Bootlegger," said Col. Price, "is a word that has been coined since the O.T.A. came into force."