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LIQUOR AMENDMENT APPLIES TO HOTELS AS 'DRY TERRITORY'

May Be Declared Public
Place Under Control
Law

CLAUSE ROUSES MIRTH

Premier Ferguson's answer to hotelmen who complain of the damage done on their premises by liquor-drinking guests came before the Ontario Legislature yesterday, and was approved by the House in committee.

In the form of an amendment to the Liquor Control Act, and as forecast by the Premier on Monday, it makes a provision whereby a hotelkeeper may apply to the Liquor Control Board and have his hotel declared a public place under the act. Also it enables the hotelman, who has had the board make such a declaration, to have the board again declare his place a hotel, rather than a public place.

Much Merriment.

This latter provision was heralded by much merriment among the legislators yesterday, members jocularly exclaiming: "That's in case he loses his clients."

The amendment as introduced by the Premier yesterday reads:

"Section 91 of the Liquor Control Act is amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

"2. The board, upon the application of the owner or proprietor of any hotel, may declare such hotel, or any designated part thereof, to be a public place for the purposes of this act, and may grant a certificate to such effect, signed by the Chief Commissioner or Deputy Chief Commissioner, to the said owner or proprietor.

"3. From the date of the granting of such certificate, such hotel, or any such designated part thereof, shall be a public place for the purposes of this act, and the provisions of Subsection 1 hereof shall not apply to such hotel or such designated part thereof.

"4. Upon the application of the owner or proprietor of any hotel to whom such certificate has been granted, the board may at any time cancel such certificate, and, from the date of such cancellation, the said hotel, or such part thereof as is designated in such certificate, shall, for the purpose of this act, cease to be a public place, and the provisions of Subsection 1 shall apply to such hotel, or such designated part."

Bringing in the amendment, the Premier declared that there were a number of hotels which will want the opportunity of protecting themselves. "The hotelman who is serious," said he, "has the opportunity of getting relief for himself."

"Some years ago," observed Hon. George S. Henry, "there was the Temperance Hotel on Bay Street, which was popular with members of this House."

"Some years ago," the Premier repeated, laughing.