

Beer Referendum Refused by Hepburn

Temperance Deputation Urged to Give New Legislation Fair Trial

THERE will be no liquor advertising in Ontario.

There will be no sale of beer and wine in restaurants.

There will be no Province-wide referendum on the beer law.

Hepburn Urges Education.

These principles—laid down on many occasions as the Hepburn Government liquor policy—were repeated yesterday when an Ontario Temperance Federation deputation called at Queen's Park.

"Carry on a campaign of education," Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn told his visitors. "That is your particular field. Eliminate the customers and there will be no sale."

The deputation leaders—Roscoe Rodd, Dr. John Coburn, Dr. A. J. Irwin and Mrs. William Pugsley—presented an indictment of beverage-room conditions. Mixed drinking, treating, public drinking, and the profit motive were denounced.

Local Option.

The principle of local option, Mr. Rodd held, was less satisfactory because of the speedy transportation provided by automobile. Notice of a beverage-room application, he suggested, should be posted, and protests permitted in a thirty-day period.

"That is in effect now," said Liquor Control Commissioner Odette. He declared that the board had turned down more beverage-room applications than it approved—in Toronto twice as many.

Premier Hepburn urged that the new legislation be given a fair trial. To requests for its repeal or for a general referendum, he would not accede.

HEPBURN ASKS PROOF OF BEER 'LEAKS'

To Follow Up Information

INVESTIGATION of all complaints alleging illegal distribution of beer in Ontario was promised from the floor of the House yesterday by Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn.

Quotes Complaint.

Just before the orders of the day were called, the Hon. William H. Price (Conservative, Toronto Parkdale), directed the Premier's attention to a despatch appearing in a Toronto evening newspaper of Feb. 20, in which an Atherley beverage room proprietor complained bootleggers were purchasing beer and selling cheaper than he could.

"If, as reported," Colonel Price said, "there are outlaw places selling beer, what steps does the Prime Minister propose to take to stamp it out?"

"Not being a constant reader of that paper," the Premier commenced, "I hadn't read the report." Laughter and desk-thumping followed.

"I hadn't suspected you were," replied Colonel Price, smiling. "That's why I brought it up."

Promises Action.

"If any one has knowledge of any complaint, let him give us the information and it will be investigated. The complaints will be turned over to the Provincial Police," the Premier promised.

"It needs to be corrected all over the Province," the former Attorney-General put in.

"We don't want any general insinuations that this is widespread, without specific complaints. I say again that if any one knows that this is going on, we would like the information. I assure you all complaints will be fully investigated," Premier Hepburn declared.