

Beverage Room Vote Will Be Considered

Provincial Poll Proposed to Hepburn by Pro- hibitionists

"More consideration" to the proposal for a Province-wide referendum on beverage rooms was promised a deputation of prohibitionists yesterday by Premier Mitchell Hepburn.

Refusal Last Year.

Last year he told a deputation from the Ontario Temperance Federation that there could be no referendum. Yesterday, following a lengthy discussion, he concluded the interview by saying:

"You have been so extremely moderate in your demands that I will give them more consideration than I otherwise would have done."

The deputation included R. S. Rodd, President of the Ontario Temperance Federation; Rev. Dr. W. J. Irwin, Secretary; Mrs. E. T. Kerr, Ottawa; Mrs. William Pugsley, Rev. Gerald Despard, Rev. John Coburn, Toronto; Peter Porter, Burford, and Rev. Dr. Allan Ferry.

The Government would "hear no more" from the dry group if such a referendum went against them, said Rev. Dr. Coburn.

Wants Liquor Out of Politics.

"We have been euchred — gypped out of a fair chance to express our opinion," said Dr. Coburn, in reference to beer parlors.

Dr. Coburn felt that the Premier could take the entire liquor question out of politics within two days. "Release your followers from caucus control on the issue, and challenge the Opposition to do the same," he argued. "Throw the question open. Some of your followers are dry, and represent dry ridings. The first step is to release them from caucus control and treat it as a moral and social problem."

"May I point out," returned Mr. Hepburn, "that that is all right in theory, but will not work out in practice. If the Government introduces a measure and fails to have it passed, it must, under British Parliamentary procedure, resign."

"That strengthens our second proposition that you give the people a plebiscite on the issue," said Dr. Coburn. "We should have a non-partisan vote."

When a member of the deputation suggested that the annual revenue to the Government from the liquor traffic must be about \$70,000,000, Mr. Hepburn secured from E. G. Odette, Liquor Control Commissioner, the in-

formation that the actual figure was \$8,000,000 for the fiscal year closing March 31, 1936.

"Lop-Sided Proposition."

"There will always be drinking," Mr. Hepburn commented, "and as long as human nature is what it is, the only alternative is to drive it underground and deprive the Government of revenue." He asked Dr. Coburn whether, if Ontario voted wet, the Federation would approve the granting of beer parlor authorities in local option counties. Dr. Coburn said, "No."

The Premier said it seemed like a "lop-sided proposition," but Dr. Coburn added: "We are only asking for a referendum so that we may go back to the position we were in before Mr. Henry proposed this beer and wine legislation."

Mr. Odette announced that, not only had the Liquor Board practically ceased issuing authorities, but "there will be fewer authorities when the new ones are issued in April."

The Premier then promised consideration of the deputation's request, and the interview terminated.

SALE OF BONDS OPEN TO TENDER

Roebuck Explains Hydro Flotation Method

Any and all firms desiring to tender on the sale of \$15,000,000 worth of bonds of the Ontario Hydro Commission were permitted to do so, the Legislature was informed yesterday by Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck.

The matter arose when T. A. Kidd (Conservative, Kingston) read from *The Globe* a report of the acceptance of the successful bid, and inquired: "Were any tenders called?"

Mr. Roebuck admitted that there had been no formally advertised tenders, but added: "That is not the practice. The fact that Hydro was in the market was made known to the interested brokers. All those who had any desire to tender were allowed to do so."

"Then," interposed Mr. Kidd, "there were no tenders called for."

"My friend is wrong in making that sweeping statement," replied the Attorney-General. Brokers, both in Toronto and abroad, had been advised, he explained, and there was an "opportunity for competitive bids."

"In what way were the brokers given the information?" asked Hon. George Henry. "By circular letter?"

"By actual application by the officers of Hydro and by negotiations," returned Mr. Roebuck, who, when Mr. Henry persisted and claimed that "that didn't clear the air," suggested his interrogator put a question on the order paper if he wished complete information. This ended the incident.

Women Must Wear Hats In Galleries

HATLESS women and applauding spectators are among those who will in future feel the force of regulations applying to the conduct of affairs in the Ontario Legislature.

In an effort to assure greater dignity in the Chamber while the House is in session, Speaker Norman O. Hipel has decreed that no women without hats will be allowed in the galleries or on the floor; that spectators who applaud will be refused readmission to the galleries; that no movement toward exits will be tolerated in the galleries on motion for adjournment until the Speaker has retired; and that no visitor will be admitted to any gallery or to the floor-level wings without a card secured from the Speaker's office.

Even civil servants, it is understood, have been instructed that they are not to attempt to watch proceedings, unless they wish to secure a card to the gallery.