

April 8

# Temperance People Said Bill's Victims

## Legislation Aimed at Wards 7 and 9, Charges Tory—Bill Gets Second Reading

**A**N OPPOSITION charge that the bill was prepared to beat the "temperance people" in a Toronto plebiscite was made on the Legislature floor yesterday before the Government secured second reading for its Liquor Control Act amendments.

### Termed "Smart."

The amendments modify the plebiscite provisions in which the Toronto plebiscite is now tangled, and will keep Eglinton and West Toronto out of a city beer vote.

William Duckworth, Toronto Conservative M.P.P., said the bill was a "smart piece of legislation" which was being brought down to beat the "temperance people" at the polls.

"This bill is prepared solely for the City of Toronto," he said. "And for one purpose—to beat the temperance people when it comes to a vote—if it ever does. The people preparing it knew that Wards 7 and 9 (Eglinton and West Toronto) would vote dry, and "the bill was prepared for that purpose."

"I wonder if the member knows that the members for Wards 7 and 9 are in favor of this bill," Harold Kirby put in.

Former Attorney-General W. H. Price had previously questioned whether the rest of Toronto, aside from these two wards, would be entitled to a plebiscite under the act as only part of a municipality.

"Under the amendments to the act," in his opinion, "it would make it very difficult to have a vote."

Colonel Price urged that since the Toronto plebiscite was already in the courts the Government should exempt it from the operation of the new plebiscite amendments.

"If one interferes with a case going to the Privy Council and part way through, aren't we taking very drastic action? There should be an exemption for that (the Toronto) petition."

### Same Protection.

The Government pointed out that the amendment giving authority-holders the right to stay open until March 31 of the year following a plebiscite only gave them the same protection which the Administration demanded for its own liquor stores. Even on this point Premier Hepburn encountered Opposition fire, when W. A. Baird said that holders who knew they were losing their authorities because of an election would be more "free and easy" in the possibly fourteen-month interim.

"He will be under the rules and regulations," the Premier said.

The Toronto Conservative M.P.P. sprang a surprise when he said he favored beer and wine sale in respectable restaurants as an alternative to the present hotel system. "The sale of wine and beer in the restaurants would have been better than in the beer parlors as at the present time," said Mr. Baird. "There's nothing wrong with the sale of beer and wine in respectable restaurants."

Former Premier Henry opened the debate with a renewal of his charges against the individual permit system which the Opposition Leader carried on for half an hour in spite of Government protests that he was out of order.

"The substitution of the 25-cent ticket—and it's only a ticket—the 25-cent ticket is in no way a manner of control. It's only a way of the Government to raise a little more money."

"Every day the duplicates are sent to the head offices of the Liquor Control Board, where a careful check is kept," Premier Hepburn retorted.