

LIQUOR SALE INQUIRY MOVE IS DEFEATED

**Conservatives Abandon
Blockading Tactics After
Brief, Furious Argument**

VOTE IS 59 TO 14

**Premier Hepburn Disputes
Figures Presented by
Opposition Leader**

Conservative intentions of blockading passage of money votes in the Ontario Legislature last night were abandoned after an hour or more of furious argument and after the House had voted 59 to 14 to defeat a motion from Hon. George S. Henry to appoint a Committee of the House to investigate liquor administration.

After defeat of Mr. Henry's motion the House went into Committee of Supply to consider money estimates, but the Opposition kept up a running fire of attack.

Almost immediately after the uproar created over the school legislation had subsided, Opposition Leader Henry was on his feet with a motion demanding the appointment of a committee of the House "to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the issuing of all authorities and powers to sell liquors, and to formulate more stringent regulations in order really to control the sale of liquor and especially to protect the youth of the Province against the ghastly and devastating effects of the present liquor policy."

Sees Lack of Control.

The sale of liquor was out of control in the Province, and the Government was in the liquor business for profit, he charged.

The motion read, in part: "Resolved: That this Legislature deplores that over \$85,000,000 was spent for intoxicating liquors, with a resultant profit of \$10,000,000, as disclosed in the Budget, during the past year; and this Legislature further deplores that the acknowledged policy of the Government has been and is to engage in the liquor business for profits."

Figures Are Disputed.

Premier Hepburn disputed the figures presented by Mr. Henry. The total sales of liquor last year amounted to \$49,000,000, he declared. Of this, \$18,000,000 was in beer, \$29,000,000 in liquor and \$1,000,000 in wine, he said.

Liquor profits, argued Mr. Henry, had increased from \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000 in one year. "My friend has been rather tricky about it. Nothing has been said about this. Mum is the word."

The Opposition Leader repeated his charge that there had been interference in Liquor Board administration and declared it was "in-

cumbent upon the Prime Minister" to appoint the committee.

Down through the ages, declared Mr. Henry, it had been the right of citizens to withhold voting of supplies to his Majesty and his Majesty's Government when there was a "growing feeling there is something wrong."

The Government had nothing to fear from a small committee investigating liquor. It could sit after the House had adjourned and the investigations of the committee could set at rest suspicions there was something wrong, or it could point the way to clearing up the situation by recommending regulations.

J. H. Clark (Lib., Sandwich-Windsor) charged the Conservatives had failed to get "a bigoted election" on the school question and were now trying to make liquor the election issue.

Challies, Hepburn Clash.

George Challies (Cons., Grenville-Dundas) clashed with the Prime Minister and Mr. Clark on the question of which party was responsible for the sale of beer by the glass in Ontario. The Conservative declared no Administration of which he had been a Minister had ever authorized the sale.

Mr. Hepburn produced documents to show that the Henry Government had sent out 15,000 applications to restaurant operators regarding the sale of beer with meals. Mr. Challies argued that, prior to the proclamation of legislation by the Hepburn Government, beer and wine was not sold in hotels.

During the debate Mr. Clark sent a messenger out of the House to get a copy of a two-page advertisement the Conservative Party had run in the Windsor Daily Star during the election. The pages carried the names of three Cabinet Ministers of the Henry Government and urged the voters to elect the Conservative Administration and enjoy beer in restaurants. Such advertisements cost \$1,500, said the Liberal member.

"I hope for the day when there will be a lot less hypocrisy and bigotry in grand old Ontario than there is here tonight. I have lived in France and Germany, and they don't have these restrictions, which, I think, induce people to drink more."

Answers Ellis.

Claims of Arthur Ellis (Cons., South Ottawa), that he has evidence of "shocking conditions" in the administration of the Liquor Control Act were met by Premier Hepburn with the assurance that if Mr. Ellis will place his evidence in writing, over his signature, a commissioner will be appointed forthwith to make the fullest possible inquiry into the situation complained of.

"Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister," said Mr. Ellis, who told the House that earlier in the day, in the Public Accounts Committee, he had expressed his willingness to lay his

information before Attorney-General Roebuck, but had got nowhere with his proposition.

Tempers which had blazed during the schools bill debate earlier in the evening ran ragged again during the House argument over the Henry-Kidd motion calling for a special committee investigation of the issuance of beverage authorities under the present Liquor Commission. When Hon. George H. Challies, former Provincial Secretary, got into the debate Premier Hepburn said the former had "projected his snozzle" into the proceedings, and took another whack at the ejected Leopold Macaulay.

"The little gentleman not now behind the Union Jack" clicked Mr. Hepburn, "was interested in a license for his brother-in-law at a nice fat fee. Pick up the Union Jack and wave it over that, will you?"

Question of Privilege.

Later during an argument as to which administration, the present one, or the Henry Government, was responsible for the present beer sale in hotels, Mr. Hepburn rose on a question of privilege. Mr. Challies, who was speaking at the time, insisted he had the floor, and asked the Prime Minister to sit down. During the argument, Colonel T. A. Kidd (Cons., Kingston), interrupted, shouting: "The Prime Minister is not running this House."

"What did the member for Kingston say?" demanded Speaker Hipel.

"I said the Prime Minister is not running this House — you are," Colonel Kidd replied.

"Sit down, then," said the Speaker.

Mr. Hepburn then took the floor, to be interrupted immediately by Colonel Kidd.

"Sit down," ordered Mr. Hepburn. Colonel Kidd remained standing.

"I'd like to go over and knock you down," added the Premier, half-smiling.

"You have had one member put out of the House tonight," clicked Colonel Kidd.

"And you may be the next one," giped a Liberal back-bencher.

"I'll have no more of this sort of thing tonight," declared Speaker Hipel.