

THE LICENSE QUESTION.

A LIVELY DEBATE IN THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Meredith Attacks the Present System of Appointing License Commissioners - Hon. A. S. Hardy Replies at Length.

TORONTO, March 15.—In the Legislature yesterday Mr. Meredith, the Leader of the Opposition, moved this amendment to a motion to go into Committee of Supply: That all words in the motion after the word "that" be omitted and the following substituted: "That the present mode of administering the license laws through the Board of Commissioners and Inspectors appointed by the Government of the day has resulted in a partial administration of the law, and has subjected those engaged in the liquor traffic to undue influence by and in the interest of the dominant party in this province; has led in many cases to the tyrannical exercise of the powers of the commissioners and inspectors, and in others to the lax enforcement of the law and the condoning for partisan purposes of offences against its provisions; has unduly and unfairly interfered with the freedom of exercising their franchise by those engaged in the liquor traffic and is otherwise mischievous in its purpose and operation; and while declaring its firm intention and purpose to be not to relax or impair the efficiency of the other provisions of the law, and particularly those limiting the number of licenses to be granted, this House is of opinion that it is essential to the honest, non-partisan and faithful execution of the liquor license laws that the present mode of appointing boards of commissioners should be abolished and provision be made for placing the appointment of commissioners in the hands of a body more removed from the influence of partisanship and more directly responsible to and under the control of the people."

Mr. Meredith said, "The attention of the public has of late been specially directed by the public press to the administration of the license system under the existing law, and it has been deemed a matter of some surprise having regard to the very serious charges made reflecting upon the administration of the law in the Capital of the Province of Ontario, that no steps have been taken towards making an investigation into the truth of the charges which are now the subject of public discussion. There are to be found in the experience of every one the proof that to some extent that state of things which was referred to by the newspaper writings exists throughout the Province."

Mr. Meredith then referred to the Crooks Act, the main feature of which was to limit the licenses and take away from the municipalities the power they before possessed in the license system. It was said by hon. gentlemen opposite that they made the change in the law not with any view to political aggrandisement, but had taken that position practically at the request of the temperance party in the country and that they had reluctantly assumed it. This, he said, had not been borne out by the facts. Continuing, Mr. Meredith said: "I want to call the attention of the House to the position the leader of the Government took when that measure was introduced in answer to the objections made from this side of the House. The hon. gentleman made a declaration that the commissioners should not be appointed from his political friends. He pledged the House that the appointments should be made from both political parties. That they should not be appointed from his side of the House only, but that there should be a member in every case of the Conservative party also appointed. To some extent he carried out that pledge, but scarcely had a year or two passed when the hon. gentleman violated the understanding under the pretence, for it was a pretence, that he could not properly administer that law if a Conservative were admitted, and that he could not administer these laws except by friends of the party. Throughout this Province not only had hon. gentlemen used this license system for election purposes, but also at other times to advance the interests of their party. It had also placed under their control the enormous liquor traffic of this country."

Mr. Meredith, continuing, said he would be able to demonstrate, not from mere statements of his own nor from charges made in the newspaper press, that the effect of this legislation had been to make those engaged in such traffic and who were of a different political persuasion cross over to the Liberal party because they knew it was to the interests of their trade that the liquor dealers should be supported by the Reform party. He read from the evidence of J. M. Lottridge at considerable length to substantiate this position. In the interests of the temperance party, and the speaker, in the interests of truth and purity, I say that this power of prostituting the present license system to the subserviency of party should be removed from the hands of the party now in power. Then instead of having this particular party and that particular party appointed by the government of the day, we would have the question of the proper administration of the license law handled in accordance with the views of the people in each and every locality. Then in large centres and where we have such cities as we have in Ontario to-day we are prepared to go further and to say that this question should be left in the hands of the people direct, with the full belief and confidence that the law would be administered in accordance with the principles of what is right and proper.

Hon. A. S. Hardy rose to reply. He explained that from 1877 up till one year ago he personally was responsible for the administration of the law, and during the last year it had been under the supervision of the Provincial Treasurer, so that the Premier was personally irresponsible, and he (Mr. Hardy), being more familiar with the administration, would take upon himself the responsibility of replying to the charges made.

Mr. Hardy said that as he saw the license administration it was one of a very superior kind, and no scheme had yet been submitted which would be better in design or better in execution than the one now in force. In fact, said he, the charges preferred by honorable gentlemen opposite are not charges of detail but charges of merely occasional discrepancies which would exist under any other regime and would crop up here and there under any law which might be in force.

Said Mr. Hardy: "The charges as made by the honorable leader of the Opposition are weak, thin, poor and meagre in detail. We as representing the Government have been charged with being partisan in the appointment of license commissioners. Now, when the Dominion Government, the friends of the honorable leader of the Opposition, by an over-charge of power undertook to administer the license law; did they, notwithstanding what has been said, appoint non-partisan boards? No, they did not. They appointed Conservatives. They did not appoint a single Reformer that I know of."

Opposition cries: "Oh yes! Oh yes!" Mr. Hardy: "Give me a name will you. [Applause.] I defy you to give me a single name of a Reformer who was appointed on the Board! You cannot do it!"

Opposition cries: "Go on, go on!" Mr. Hardy: "You come here with these charges, and now you are not able to give me a single name!"

Mr. Clancy (Kent): "Thomas G. McNabb of Chatham, a Reformer, was appointed to the Dominion Board."

Mr. Hardy: "That is only one name, give me more. Go on and give me more. Let us have the names of more; but remember, I shall look carefully into this man McNabb's history and see if he was really a Reformer."

Mr. Hardy further continued in an attack on the Dominion Government's mode of dealing with the license, while they presumed they had them under their control. The state of the liquor traffic before the enactment of the Crooks Act was referred to, and compared with the condition resultant on the existing laws. Statistics were quoted to show that Reform hotel keepers were greatly in the minority in all places.

He would not continue the argument further now, but would rest it unless the debate was continued on the other side. He would just say, however, that the present mode of the appointment of commissioners was less objectionable than their election by local bodies, in which cases it was well-known hotel men would combine to elect their men. It was acknowledged that the temperance legislation of this House was in advance of all legislation on the license question in the world, with the exception of the Nova Scotia law.

Mr. Hardy concluded: "Under these circumstances in the interests of temperance and morality it is not desirable again to revert to the old system, which the resolution of my hon. friend seeks." [Applause.]

After recess the debate was continued by Mr. H. E. Clarke, Mr. Gibson of Huron, Dr. Willoughby, Hon. A. M. Ross who produced a statement signed by 143 Toronto hotelkeepers denying the World's charges of license booting and the existence of a License Guarantee Fund, Mr. Ostrom, Mr. Waters, Mr. Whitney, Mr. G. B. Smith, Mr. Preson, Mr. Murray and Mr. Bishop. Mr. Wylie moved the adjournment of the debate.

In accordance with a resolution moved by the Attorney General yesterday, morning sessions will be commenced next Tuesday and will be continued for the remainder of the session.

Mr. Ley's bill to amend the Municipal Act was considered in the Municipal Committee yesterday. Mr. H. E. Clarke's bill was agreed to, the clause taxing local improvements on a basis of property valuations instead of by a frontage rate, being eliminated.

After some discussion consideration of the clause in Mr. Ley's bill relating to the city's liability for the use of the county jail and court-house was adjourned until to-day.

TOPICS FROM THE CAPITAL

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HOLD A HOT SESSION.

A Bill Introduced in the House to Compel Telegraph and Telephone Wires to be Put Underground.

OTTAWA, March 15.—The Senate yesterday continued its discussion of Hon. John Macdonald's trade resolution and the House took up the adjourned debate on the Budget. The speakers in the House were Mr. Wood (Westmoreland), Bechard, Giguault, Amyot, Sproule and McMillan of Huron. Mr. Cockburn moved the adjournment of the debate, which will not be continued until Tuesday, when by arrangement it will be closed.

Only one bill was introduced yesterday, by Mr. Perley of Ottawa, to provide for the compulsory placing of all telephone, telegraph and electric light wires underground, the bill to go into effect on Jan. 1 next. The bill applies to the whole of Canada.

The House adjourned at 12:25 this morning. There was a three hours' session of the Public Accounts Committee yesterday morning, at which there was a good deal of lively talk. It is asserted by the Liberal members that the clothing supplied the volunteers by Canadian manufacturers is of an inferior quality and that it could be purchased more cheaply in England and a far better article supplied.

The contracts for militia clothing are not awarded by public competition but are practically awarded between three or four firms: One at Halifax, two at Montreal and one at Hamilton. Senator W. E. Sandford's Hamilton company was paid \$50,000 last year for militia clothing, James O'Brien of Montreal \$19,000, and Houll & Miller of Halifax \$19,000. Mr. Mulock got the committee to pass a motion summoning Senator Sandford to appear. The House when it met endorsed the resolution and it was sent over to the Senate.

Another matter discussed was the case of Henry Smyth, M.P., of Chatham, Ont., who holds a roving commission from the Agricultural Department as an immigration agent. Mr. Campbell, the present member for Kent, in which Chatham is situated, wanted to make a statement to the committee that Mr. Smyth had drawn money from the Department for services that he had never performed and for expenses which he had never incurred, in fact the charge was one of fraud. Mr. Campbell is not a member of the Public Accounts Committee, and Mr. Sonerville wanted to have him examined. This, however, the Conservative members would not agree to unless Mr. Smyth was present to cross-examine Mr. Campbell. There was a great deal of lively talk as to whether Mr. Campbell would be allowed to make his statement. Mr. Foster, Mr. Bowell and Mr. Costigan energetically opposed any statement until Mr. Smyth had been notified of the charges. The latter will therefore be summoned to appear at the next meeting.

Mr. Davis called attention to a large payment made to an informer by the Customs Department and asked how the money was paid to the informer. In this case \$5185 appeared in the Auditor-General's report as having been paid to S. W. McMichael of Toronto, financial inspector of Ontario customs ports, as his share of a seizure. There was also a similar sum of \$6188 entered as having been paid to the informer. The Auditor-General says that both sums were paid over to the officer who made the seizure. He was supposed to hand over half to the informer. Mr. Davies pointed out that it was quite possible the seizing officers might receive the benefit of the whole sum.

Mr. Brown has decided not to attempt to "re-committee" his bill.

Two applications for divorce have been before the Senate committee. In the case in which Mr. G. W. Lowry of Hantley, Ont., applies for separation from his wife on the ground of adultery, the application will be favorably reported.

The Wand case, in which Arthur Wand of Montreal applies for divorce from his wife on the ground of adultery, was up yesterday. The respondent was not represented. The petitioner and several witnesses were examined. The committee framed a report which will be presented to the Senate to-day. The charge of infidelity was conclusively proved.

Col. O'Brien, M.P., says positively that he will not withdraw his anti-Jesuit amendment to go into supply.

The condition of Hon. J. H. Pope does not improve.

Hon. Edward and Lady Alice Stanley gave an elaborate "At Home" at the Racquet Court last evening. There was a large invitation list.

The lobbies are full of Canadian Pacific Railway magnates: General Manager Van Horne leads the party. The company's bill comes up in the Railway Committee to-day and a big time is expected.

Collision on the Grand Trunk. BATTLE CREEK, Mich., March 15.—Two miles west of Battle Creek a collision occurred last night on the Grand Trunk Railway. A freight train of 25 loaded cars and a passenger train struck, turning it around and carrying it twelve rods, where it rolled down an embankment. Engineer Powell of the freight stood at his post, but the engineer and fireman of the light engine saved their lives by jumping. Their engine is a complete wreck. Three cars loaded with shelled corn are scattered along the track. The wreck occurred on a heavy grade. Engineer Oxtoby of the light engine misread his orders. A tramp stealing a ride was badly hurt.

The Weavers' strike. FALL RIVER, Mass., March 15.—The number of weavers on strike yesterday was larger than on Wednesday. The shut-down of the King Phillip and American linen mills has added 2000 to the number of idle operatives. Over 4000 strikers attended a mass meeting in the park yesterday and manifested the same enthusiasm as at the beginning. The manufacturers insist that there is nothing to arbitrate and before a conference can be arranged the strikers must return to work. Most of the mills will lay off to-day. The big struggle is expected to come next week when there will be no wages coming.

Harrison Receives the Diplomat. WASHINGTON, March 15.—At noon yesterday the President formally received the members of the diplomatic corps. The members of the corps assembled at the Department of State, where they were presented to Secretary Blaine by Assistant Secretary Adee. Proceeding to the White House the diplomats, who were attired in their resplendent court dresses, were introduced to the President by the Secretary of State. All of the legations were represented.

The Kendall Iron Works Failure. PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—At a meeting of creditors of the Reading Iron Works the committee in appraisement reported the liabilities \$1,875,955 and the assets at \$216,787 above liabilities.

He Makes a Reply. A "Mohawk Dutchman" makes reply in the Watertown Times to the utterance of "A Canadian" at Carthage, N.Y., in the White House. A principal reason for reply was that the letter was "published in the White House, a paper always believed to be in sympathy with the business interests of both countries ever since the late Dr. Barker gave direction to its sentiments, and we trust will continue in the same spirit even if threatened to be shot out of the 'Punjab Canon' of official patronage."

Protection Begets Cheek. Monetary Times. When particular persons find that they can get laws passed to put money in their pockets for the asking they may be relied on to ask.

FRENCH AFFAIRS.

A Heated Debate in the Chamber—Three Duels Imminent.

PARIS, March 15.—The Bank of France authorities deny the report of the resignation of the governor and one of the directors of the bank. They also discredit the rumor of the resignation of two other directors.

La Paris says the Minister of Finance has appointed two experts to ascertain the exact position of the Comptoir d'Escompte.

In the Chamber of Deputies M. Arène amid noisy interruption from the Right read the report of the committee appointed to consider the charges against Laguerre, Laisart and Tarquet. The report favored the prosecution of the accused deputies.

M. Sevaistre declared the proposal showed the imbecility of its authors. For this remark Sevaistre was severely censured by the President of the Chamber.

M. Laguerre then spoke. He averred that his party intended to prosecute its campaign peacefully and legally. He would not appeal to the Chamber, whose verdict was immaterial, but to the country which supported the Patriotic League. He denied that the league was a secret society. The real conspirators were those who rebelled against universal suffrage. This clique had seized the Government, but universal suffrage would have the last word. Persecution and violence would only hasten the hour when the country, disgusted and indignant, would repeal the Chamber. [Applause from the Right.] The report of the committee maintained that the Patriotic League was a secret society. Referring to the fact that Gen. Boulanger recently dined with the Duchesse Dazes, he expressed surprise that men calling themselves Republicans should form a part of the Praetorian Guard of the Faubourg St. Germain.

Gen. Boulanger rose, and crossing his arms regarded the majority defiantly. An uproar ensued, during which M. Thiesse was censured for apostrophising the President.

Paul de Cassagnac defied the Chamber to prosecute Boulanger.

The debate was adjourned, 318 to 214. The Chamber then, 334 to 227, authorized the Government to prosecute the accused deputies. The sitting was then adjourned.

As a result of the heated debate duels are imminent between MM. Arène and Provost Delanay, Bureau and De Cassagnac, Pichon and Laguerre. In the course of his speech Laguerre was called to order on account of his violent language and the fact was inscribed on the official record.

Not so Poor as He Seemed. ST. LOUIS, March 15.—Friday George C. Hayden, aged 75, died at a cheap boarding house here. He was supposed to be very poor. The public administrator in examining Hayden's trunk found a note enclosing a safe deposit key. It also contained the name of B. C. Payne of Winslow, Maine. The administrator found in Hayden's box at the safe deposit vault over \$50,000 in cash, stocks and bonds. Hayden is supposed to have relatives in Maine. He lived here nearly 40 years.

Brought Her Plunder. WINDSOR, March 15.—Magistrate Bartlett yesterday morning continued the case against Mrs. Tremble for one week. She is charged with bringing stolen property into Canada, and was arrested at the instigation of a clerk who saw her steal some goods in Newcomb, Endicott & Co.'s, Detroit, and followed her to Windsor before he could make up his mind to have her arrested.

Commodity Tariffs Abolished. NEW YORK, March 15.—The Executive Committee of the trunk lines has resolved to have no more commodity tariffs, that is, cut rates, and to abolish those in existence. In future, however, it is provided that commodity tariffs may exist by mutual agreements.

The Paris Bourse. PARIS, March 15.—The bourse closed with prices above the lowest figures of the day, but the market was unsteady. Comptoir d'Escompte shares closed at 375, and Societe des Metaux shares at 112 1/2, 50c.

Death of a Noted Tenor. PARIS, March 15.—Henri Tamburic, the celebrated Italian tenor singer, is dead aged 69.

INTERESTING ITEMS BY WIRE. The Chinese are leaving Milwaukee owing to the recent revolutions.

An epidemic of scarlet fever in portions of Dakota is attended with unusual fatality. Bishop Huntington says the church is becoming a club house to the exclusion of the poor.

Virgil Jackson was hanged at Utica yesterday for the murder of Morton Metcalf on Jan 29, 1888.

The colored people of the United States propose to erect a \$200,000 monument to Lincoln at Springfield, Ill.

It is just 100 years since the then John Walter of The Times was sentenced to stand in the pillory for political libel.

Gen. Sherman's son, Thomas Ewing Sherman, has become a member of the Society of Jesus, and is to be ordained as a priest in July.

A conflict between American and Mexican miners appears imminent in the Lower California gold fields, and Mexican troops are hurrying to the scene.

The Granite Hotel at Wellsburg, W. Va., was burned Wednesday night. Several guests jumped from the third story windows and were badly injured.

The proposed duel between Bellmar-Kovics, one of the regents of Serbia, and Mihokovics, chief of staff, was prevented by the intervention of ex-King Milan.

La Bourse de Paris, a fervent supporter of the copper ring, admits that the crisis is appalling, and announces that all mines have consented to stop their output for two months.

Lord George Hamilton announces that Australia had promised to give £35,000 annually for ten years towards the building of the proposed new ships of war, also to fully maintain the vessels when completed.

Gloucester (Mass.) despatch: Reports from Newfoundland say the issue of licenses to American vessels for the purchase of bait and other necessary outfit will be refused this season, and that the Government will coincide with the Dominion Government in its policy.

Advices just received at Auckland from Samoa show that there was no basis for the sensational rumor of an engagement between the United States man-of-war Nipsic and the German ship Olga. German officials on the island have entirely given up their aggressive policy.

At the Colonial dinner in London Wednesday night, at which there were 270 guests, the Prince of Wales, who presided, referred to his visit to Canada, and said the changes and immense development were such that he should not know the country now. The services of the Canadian voyageurs on the Nile would never be forgotten.

NEWS OF THE DOMINION.

A TORONTO FIRM MULCTED BY THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES.

Death at a Wedding—Evidences at Montreal.—A Dundas Man's Probably Fatal Fall—Down by the Sea.

TORONTO, March 15.—In the police court yesterday morning George Kerr, the well known barrister, was fined \$3 and costs for assault on James Paterson, a retired merchant and ex-President of the Board of Trade. The trouble arose from a dispute as to the whereabouts of Paterson's will, which he claimed to have left with Kerr as lawyer. A case of insulting language preferred by Kerr against Paterson was dismissed. Both are prominent trustees of the Metropolitan Methodist Church.

Contractor John Shields and Captain Sylvester Neelon appeared before the Civic Executive Committee yesterday to press the claims of the St. Catharines and Niagara Central Railway Company for a bonus or subsidy from the Dominion Government. The following motion was passed: "That the Council be requested to pass a petition asking the Dominion Government to grant the subsidy, and that a committee consisting of His Worship the Mayor, Chairman of the Executive, and Ald. Denison, Davies and Vokes, wait upon the Government and impress on it the great advantage to the commercial interests of Toronto likely to accrue on the completion of that section of the road between St. Catharines and Toronto."

It is reported that Gillespie, Ansley & Martin, wholesale furriers, have had a difficulty with the custom authorities, which has resulted in the firm being mulcted to the tune of \$5000. Both the members of the firm and the authorities refuse to talk.

It is recorded against the name of Edward White, 626 1/2 Yonge-street, arrested last night, that he attempted to steal a dog, the property of Wm. Flynn. According to the latter's story Flynn's dog was walking soberly behind its owner in Yonge-street when the prisoner came along and grabbed it. He refused to give it up and was run in.

The admirers of the heavy horse from all parts of the Province assembled at the Toronto Drill Shed yesterday to witness the Clydes' contest for honors. It was the third annual spring show of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada. Both morning and afternoon the spacious building was crowded with spectators, who seemed to take great interest in the big horses as they were led about, their manes decorated with various colored ribbons. The show on a whole was certainly the best yet held by the Association and the animals did credit to the country. Mr. Beith of Howmanville was a prominent exhibitor, his stock being a fine lot. The interest taken in the first class that came before the judges, that of Canadian bred Clydesdale stallions, showed that the agriculturists of the Dominion are aware of the necessity of securing good, serviceable home-bred animals. In this class first prize was awarded to William Gregg's Glenlea, bred by the exhibitor at Claremont. Glenlea also secured the sweepstake prize. In the next class, that of Canadian Clydesdale stallions, foaled subsequent to Jan. 1, 1888, John Bell's L'Amoureux secured first prize, the only other entry being Alex. Doherty's Merry Boy.

A Government caucus was held in room 16 at the Legislative buildings yesterday. The chief subject was that of opening the railway question. It was decided that colonization railways would receive encouragement, notably those which would open up the northwestern part of the Province.

It is understood that they announced their intention of granting aid to the following proposed railways:

\$3000 per mile for fifty miles of road from Port Arthur to Sand Lake, amounting in all to \$150,000 to that district.

\$3000 per mile for 28 miles, from a point on Manitoulin Island, to connect with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

\$3000 per mile for a road from Parry Sound to the Northern and Pacific Railway junction.

\$3000 for 50 miles of a railroad beginning east of Palmer Rapids and terminating 20 miles east of Wapport.

It is not at all improbable but the Government will also consider before the House the advisability of granting aid to the Nipissing and James Bay railway, although it is believed they did not announce this as yet. The Government are fully alive to the representations made that the newly-settled districts of the Province are entitled to assistance in the line of railway development.

Probably Fatal Fall. HAMILTON, March 15.—Mr. Robt. Woods, who was an old-time resident of Dundas and for years foreman of the Dundas foundry, fell from a hay mow and received injuries from which he will probably die. The unfortunate gentleman, who is now engaged in farming near Cujkstown, was preparing to feed the stock and by some means fell through the mow. When picked up it was ascertained that his injuries were of a very serious nature. Drs. Ross and Malloch were soon in attendance; and it was discovered that either his ribs or the cartilage connecting with his spine had been fractured. He is paralyzed in the lower limbs from the effect of the accident and it is feared that he will not recover.

Montreal Malcontents. MONTREAL, March 15.—In the Court of Queen's Bench yesterday among the true bills returned by the grand jury were: Marie Girard, Eva Peltier and J. Personne, perjury; Andre Mainville, rape; J. A. Coultie, E. Rooney and L. S. Chaffier, obtaining money under false pretences; Nap. La-roque, forgery of signatures to application for liquor licenses. No bill was returned in the case of Wm. Dieterle, charged by Feodor Boas with obtaining money under false pretences. The trial of John Bensen for the murder of his wife was continued yesterday, the evidence being unfavorable to Bensen.

Death at a Wedding. WYOMING, Ont., March 15.—While a wedding was taking place Wednesday evening at the residence of John Paul, second line of Plympton, Mrs. McLintock, wife of Rev. Mr. McLintock of Mandamin Presbyterian Church, went into one of the bedrooms to lay aside her wraps. A few moments later she was found lying on the floor dead. The cause of her death was apoplexy. She leaves four sons and five daughters.

Expansion of British Trade With Canada. LONDON, March 15.—A meeting of the Anticosti Company has been convened for voluntary liquidation, as F. W. Stockwell is unable to provide the purchase price. The directors expect that the property when sold as a result of the winding up, will more than suffice to pay the debts and expenses, and repay the shareholders the full amount of their subscription.

British trade expanded last month both in exports to and imports from Canada. The former increased £21,330, or equal to five per cent.; the latter £23,465, or equal to twelve per cent.

A \$30,000 Fire. MARION, Ind., March 14.—The window glass factory of Stewart, Estes & Co. was burnt to-day; loss, \$50,000.