THE TORONTO WORLD

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FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 1889.

The License Tyranny.

The World undertook some weeks ago to expose the abuses of the present system of granting liquor licenses, and yesterday's debate in the Legislature was in effect and substance a corroboration of our work. The license commission in Toronto and in many other places is simply a most powerful political engine in the hands of partizans of the Government. Licenses have been issued on condition of subscription to party (Reform) funds and of abstention from voting against Reformers if the hotel man happens to be a Conservative. Hotel men have been given to understand that a renewal of their license depended on their "keeping quiet" as to any abuses they may have suffered. For instance, the 150 licensed hotel men of Toronto know that the first of May is coming on, that to breathe a word against the operations of the Ryans, Jaffrays, Davies, Dohertys, Smalls, Prestons, meant a denial of a license for the coming year. The World has seen a good many pitiful exhibitions in its day, but nothing that would quite equal the case of a Yonge-street saloon man who has the reputation of being an athlete and a man of courage, who came into the office of this paper the other day and wished to know if he was the party referred to as having had to spend $2200 in order to get a license; if he was, he wished to deny it. The whole air of the man was of one who had been thumbscrewed and had been ordered by the inquisitors to clear himself. Not only this one, but scores of hotel men had to pay large sums either to the party fund or to the boodlers in order to get their licenses.

The men who have been engaged in this disreputable business know that they have been found out, and some of them are ashamed of themselves and would fain hide themselves from the public, behind a public office, if possible; others of them pretend to brazen it out, but with poor success. The Government know that the exposure has hurt them, and the Reform Club has been staggered by this discovery on its list of membership of every other hotelkeeper in the city, including pronounced Conservatives.

The license tyranny must go.

A Revolution in the Irish Question.

To say that it is always the unexpected that happens is something that it may do to use occasionally as a figure of speech, nothing more. But the unexpected does happen sometimes; and one of the most remarkable instances known is that of the judicial inquiry as to the attack made by The London Times on Mr. Parnell, in connection with the great results which now seem likely to spring from what most people would call little causes. The triumphal reception to Mr. Parnell in London the other night marked the opening of a new situation, it would not be too much to say, of a revolution—in the Irish question. People can see now that the big blunder made by The Times has done more good than anything else that has turned up for a dozen years or more past. This is truly a great and remarkable case of the unexpected happening. Gladstone and Parnell, with many powerful aids to help, might have toiled for years without effecting what a chapter of accidents and blunders by their friends the enemy has done for them in a day, so to speak. Ordinary people cannot imagine how all the wise and carefully prepared plans they might have elaborated could have done for Mr. Parnell what the other party has done for him "with a turn of the wrist," as it were. This is the sticking and remarkable para of the business—the revolution which a great accident, if we may call it such, has effected in the Home Rule situation. It might not be going far wrong to say that the general public are in a manner dazed by the event; and scarcely know yet what struck them.

Mr. John Morley took the chair at the London meeting, and certainly he did not undervalue the importance of the occasion. Nor shall we say that he exaggerated, either: rather let us say that he made a worthy effort to strike out a true estimate of what is destined to prove a great historical occasion. He looks for a large result to follow—nothing less than the carrying of Home Rule for Ireland. At the same time it is evidently his expectation that this will have to come by compromise. He says, "it may be that the Tories will carry Home Rule;" and, before we dismiss this as wildly improbable, let us reflect that stranger things have happened before. Think of the Duke of Wellington assenting to and even urging the passage of the Great Reform Bill, and Sir Robert Peel abolishing the Corn Laws! Some of us may live to see The Times, true to its name, defending Home Rule as something inevitable, and which had to be. Were the world's great journalistic clock-face to do this it would still be "The Times"—*more suo*. Mr. Morley almost suggests compromise from the Gladstone and the Parnell camps respectively, as well as from the Tories. He told his audience that between these two parties the case was one of alliance rather than of fusion. In other words, each retains its own independence of action, though they may act together.

Following the stunning failure and catastrophe of The Times, compromise appears to be the prevailing key-note audible to the public ear. So we should say from present indications; but time must tell. According to current report, Mr. Parnell himself was the first to suggest the possibility. So there may yet be adopted some plan or other of Home Rule for Ireland, and that ere we are much older.

About Immigrants Coming In.

We were not mistaken in saying yesterday that a strong emigration breeze had commenced blowing in the Old Country. The cable despatches intimate that the season opens early and is likely to be a lively one. A good deal is said, too, about Government aid. This, however, means Imperial Government aid, and it is still true that the expenditure of Canadian Government money to assist emigrants to come here has ceased.

If the Imperial authorities have money to spend for this purpose let them spend it. However, our own right to have something to say as to the kind of people we find room for here still remains: and always subject to that we should welcome every season a new army of immigrants of the right sort. The people will expect to see this properly attended to by our own authorities, both Dominion and Provincial.

The recent decision of the court in favor of Mr. Samuel Blake's retention of the office of a Bencher of the Law Society, is one that challenges public opinion. He acts on the strength of a clause in the charter making "retired" judges *ex officio* benchers. Mr. Blake resigned his judgeship to come down into the body of the court and fight on a par with his quondam professional brethren. He did not "retire" in the generally understood sense of that term. Considering that Mr. Blake could readily be elected a bencher, The World suggests that he pursue that course. It is better to have an honor thrust on you than be accused by even one man of usurping a right. Good taste as well as common sense are against Mr. Blake, whatever the opinion of there sympathetic judges may be on the strict law of the case.

At the present moment there is no question agitating the public mind more than that of the pecuniary liability of railway companies for death and accident to passengers. While it is stated that to hold the company for damages it is necessary to prove negligence, it is asked if a broken rail, a broken tire, or cracked driving wheel causing an accident can rightly be called the visitation of God. It may be true that an inspector made due examination and failed to discover the flaw, but the flaw or some other tangible cause must have existed for the breakage. If a man pays for a ticket he contracts to be delivered at his destination alive and unmaimed, and though there may be degrees of negligence it is hard to see to what other cause than some shortcoming of the company's staff or plant, railway accidents can be attributed.

A lamentable feature in Canadian politics is the readiness of our public men to palliate an offence committed by a Liberal leader by reference to one of the same kind laid at the door of a Tory minister, and *vice versa*, thus: because Mr. Alexander Mackenzie when Premier of Canada was also President of an Insurance Company, the Liberal leaders at Ottawa decline to criticise Sir John Macdonald's incumbency of the Presidency of a Life Insurance Company, at the present moment. The actual merits of the case are lost sight of, and each party sits muzzled by the acts of their respective leaders. It would be better if no member of an existing government were ever to occupy a seat at the board of a commercial company.

How will this do as a theory for Mr. J. L. Forster's seemingly generous motive in offering to disclose to the Dominion Government the whereabouts of rich and unlimited coal fields in Ontario for the paltry consideration of two cents per ton royalty? viz.: That the shrewd artist and his partners do not and never did dream the Government would entertain their remarkable proposition, but that their idea is to arouse the interest of capitalists and lie low for syndicates eager to snap at the bait.

Such crimes as that committed by Wilson in Warwick township are not unfrequent across the border, only that there it is the practice of the wretched murderer to relieve the world of his wretched presence immediately after despatching his victim. The Warwick fiend failed to do likewise, but The World earnestly hopes the authorities, or anybody else for that matter, capture and make short work of him. Such diabolical deeds must be handled with an Iron Hand.

The Lower California gold find has turned out to be a delusion and a fraud. But this not altogether unexpected discovery was not made until thousands of hopeful fortune-hunters had been swindled by Mexican Custom officials and robbed by stage drivers and road houses. 'Twas ever thus.

It was cruel, very cruel, for the House of Commons to at first wound and then kill Mr. Adam Brown's bird bill. But the mournful feelings of the little feathered chaps over the fate of the measure will be as nothing to the lacerated pomposity of the member for Hamilton.

The Ontario authorities should do something more than offer a reward for the capture of Wilson, the deliberate murderer of poor Miss Marshall. They should put detectives on his trail. Neither money nor mercy should be considered in running down and disposing of the wretch.

Parnell and the United States baseballists are the lions of the hour in London. It looks as if the Irish leader has "got on" to Balfour's curves and will make a home run for Home Rule.

T. Granger Stewart, M.D., F.R.S.E., Ordinary Physician to H.M., the Queen, in Scotland, Professor of Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, writes: "Hypertrophy of the heart is almost always present in cases of advanced cirrhotic disease, and also in the advanced stages of the inflammatory affection. One may trace the patients the gradual development of this hypertrophy advance, *pari passu* (together) with the progress of the renal (kidney) affection." In a large number of these cases the kidney disease is entirely overlooked and the trouble ascribed to heart disease as a cause, when in reality the kidney disease is the cause and the heart trouble the effect. This error is made easy on account of the kidney disease having no local manifestations in the majority of cases. The kidney disease can be cured by the timely use of Warner's Safe Cure and the consequences avoided.

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From Police Blotters.

Allan Melville, who has no particular home, is a prisoner in Wilton-avenue Station on suspicion of stealing a quantity of braces from some person unknown.

Edward Pears was acting in a disorderly manner in Centre-street last night, when the police interfered and locked him up.

Ann Averlidge, who gives her address as Parkdale, is a prisoner at Headquarters on a charge of vagrancy. She is supposed to be insane, and seems to be laboring under the hallucination that all the men are running after her.

Dr. Sprague, Police Surgeon, visited the Patrol Wagon Saturday morning, Court-street, yesterday and condemned it as unhealthy. The men will sleep upstairs in future.

"Cable" Cigars. The standard brand. Over a quarter of a century in the market. Sales constantly increasing. tf

AMONG THE SOCIETIES.

Last night Court Harmony, A. O. F., 7045, reviewed its bylaws. Bro. Hazel presided.

L. O. L. 404 had four initiations and several propositions last night. Bro. Curran presided.

L. O. L. 137 had two initiations and several propositions last night. Bro. Byers presided.

Sons of Canada Nonpareil Lodge had several initiations last night. J. A. Mayerhofferch presided.

Canada Council 612, Royal Arcanum, had two initiations and several propositions last night. Regent Firstbrook presided.

Metropolitan Oddfellows, 6334, Manchester Unity, had one initiation and one proposition last night. G. Chisholm presided.

The Living Benefit order of Iron Hall, North Toronto branch, No 936, in Jackson's Hall initiated six candidates.

Royal Scarlet Chapter had three raised to the illustrious scarlet degree last night. J. McMillan, C. C., presided.

Batoche Council, No. 32, Order of Chosen Friends, had a large meeting last night in Temperance Hall. Ex-Ald. Harry Piper was initiated with the full ritual. Past Chief Councillor William Bannon was presented with a gold pin for having brought the largest number of candidates for the past year.

At the meeting of Preston Lodge, S. O. E., in Occident Hall President J. Aldridge occupied the chair. Several propositions were received and two initiated. The hall was well filled by members and visiting brethren. A pleasing event crowned the business when Past Grand President Dr. Pollard presented Mr. John Nunn, Past President of Preston Lodge, with a jewel as a mark of esteem and respect from the members of the lodge.

The celebrated El Padre brand of cigars has lost none of its original excellence. The tobacco used, being of a high grade and carefully selected, guarantees the consumer a cigar of fine and delicate aroma and the best value. tf

Madre E Higo Cigars are unquestionably the finest 10c and 15c cigars in the market. Try them. tf

THE LICENSE TYRANNY.

Continued from First Page.

election of the license holders? A.—Yes, a partial canvass.

Q.—Who was with you? A.—Mr. Mackenzie.

Q.—The License Inspectors? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many did you canvass? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Fifty? A.—Perhaps so.

Q.—Did you go to 75? A.—No.

Q.—That was beyond your limit? A.—We may have gone to 50 or 60.

Q.—How did you come to go together in the matter? A.—I asked Mr. Mackenzie to go with me. That was all.

How the Saloon Men Were Canvassed.

Q.—You asked him to canvass for Burns and Walter? A.—I told him I was going to canvass the hotel and saloon men and asked him to go with me.

Q.—Did you and Mr. Mackenzie canvass anybody but license holders? A.—No.

Q.—You didn't go with the intention of canvassing anybody but license holders? A.—No.

Q.—That was your object? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you canvass with anybody else? A.—No.

Q.—Did you canvass alone? I mean with these particular people? A.—Not this election.

Q.—Every time you went on a canvass you looked up Mackenzie? A.—I did.

Q.—You didn't happen to run against him? A.—I used to call for him.

Q.—You have got lots of friends who take a strong interest in politics on that side? A.—Yes.

Q.—And who do canvassing? A.—Yes.

Q.—To your knowledge? A.—Yes.

Q.—And with whom you are equally intimate as with Mackenzie? A.—Yes.

Q.—And it didn't strike you to get any of them? A.—No.

Q.—Did you think it a proper thing for Mr. Mackenzie to go around canvassing. A.—I don't know that I should be a judge of that matter.

Q.—As a citizen, do you? A.—I don't want to give an opinion.

Q.—Would you do it yourself if you were an inspector? A.—Unless I am compelled to answer that question I won't answer it.

Q.—You decline to express an opinion upon the propriety of Mackenzie making such a canvass as that? A.—I don't want to express an opinion.

Arguments Used With Liquor Dealers.

Q.—You asked him to call on Burns and Walter? A.—Yes.

Q.—And told him it was his interest to do so? A.—I may have.

Q.—And the interest of all liquor dealers? A.—No.

Q.—Did you make this an argument that it was the interest of the license holders? A.—No; I may have said I didn't see why the liquor dealers didn't support the Reform party.

Q.—Were you asked by anybody which side it was the interest of the trade to support? A.—I don't remember.

Q.—Would you deny it? A.—If you tell me any person would remember I may have said I thought it was to their interest to vote for the Reform party.

Q.—And their interest in their business as license holders? A.—No; I said I thought it was the liquor interest to support the Reform party.

Q.—You will say you didn't go any further? A.—No.

Q.—You say you didn't say it was the interest of the license holders to support the Reform party? A.—I may have said so.

This was the great Reform Temperance party of the country that influenced a large number of saloon and tavern keepers in Hamilton to cross over to their side because it was in their interests to do so. We had here a gentleman having a large interest in the liquor trade of Hamilton who made the statement that practically he changed his politics because he thought it was to the interest of the liquor party to go over to the Government. Had we not here the key for honorable gentlemen assuming the control of the liquor traffic and thus harnessing to the wheels of the party the whole influence of that traffic!

In the course of the crusade made by The Toronto World against the administration of the license system in the city of Toronto, the name of a brewer, Mr. Davies, had been brought prominently forward. It had been said that this gentleman possessed an undue advantage over others engaged in this trade, etc.

Still Another Charge.

In Dundas, just preceding the election, prosecutions under the Scott Act suddenly were abandoned. Why? In order that honorable gentlemen opposite might use the influence of those engaged in the liquor traffic of that place. But as soon as the election was over then the prosecutions continued as they were before. Mr. Meredith said that in his judgment the effect of the hon. gentlemen opposite taking the control of the liquor traffic into their hands was one of the important factors standing in the way of an honest enforcement of the Scott Act. Was there any member in the House who was not aware that the Scott Act had been improperly carried out under the administration of gentlemen opposite? They were pledged to the honest enforcement of this law, but experience had shown that they were merely trifling with it.

Continuing, Mr. Meredith said some hon. gentlemen were bold enough to say that these commissioners were appointed because the County Councils were not to be trusted and that those men, who of necessity would be biased in the interests of their party, would be more desirable than these important bodies. Continuing, Mr. Meredith asked that the traffic might be released from the thraldom under which it now lay and removed from the partisan influences which hampered it.

Hon. gentlemen had a large and enormous patronage connected with the grants of land and other departments. They had gradually taken under their control for partisan purposes the educational institutions of the country. Mr. Meredith did not say this in any offensive sense, but he contended that the effect of placing the control of our educational system under the Government of the day had been to make it to the interest of the whole teaching body to be favorable to the Government of the day. It might be said that it was very well to make all these objections to the present system, but what did he propose to replace it? "Now," said the Leader, "although I sit on this side of the House and am a Conservative, and hon. gentlemen opposite are always parading themselves as being friends of the people, I have more faith in the people." They contended that the people were not to be trusted in administering this license system, but said Mr. Meredith: "The people of this country are to be trusted, and even if they go wrong occasionally the people may set themselves right. [Applause.] Now let us see if we have not in connection with this licensing law the best evidence that we may depend upon the common sense of the people to do what is fair." Everybody knew that certain powers were conferred upon the municipal bodies to reduce the number of licenses. Where our license commissioners had not used that power of reducing the licenses the people of the city of Toronto acting through their City Council did so. The men appointed by the Government had failed to do their duty until that duty was done by the people.

A Clinching Objection.

Apart altogether from the non-administration of the law there was still another objection to the present system. Through it the Government had practically under its control the business of everybody engaged in the liquor traffic throughout the length and breadth of Ontario. They therefore controlled the votes and influence of those engaged in that traffic, and when to this was added the corrupt and partisan administration of the law the matter became a public scandal.

Mr. Meredith in his speech referred to a letter written to Dr. McCully by Mr. Manning. In connection with this he quoted the following extract from The Montreal Witness, Feb. 20, 1889:

Is Mr. Manning's cavalier letter to Dr. McCully, published by The Empire and copied in this paper, to be taken as a statement of the Mowat Government's attitude towards the Scott Act? Not only its enemies but many of its supporters have frequently accused it of truckling to the liquor interest, but we had hardly expected to find that Government officially proclaiming itself a pure time-server on questions of the most profound moral importance and even in dealing with the simple and obvious duty of enforcing existing law. Nobody would, we presume, like worse than the Mowat Government or than Mr. Manning to hear the old cry, "To your tents, O Israel!" run along the temperance line and the proclamation of a third party. Such words as those at the conclusion of Mr. Manning's letter are, if not disowned by the Government, very liable to be read by many earnest men as the handwriting on the wall.

The Remedy Proposed.

Mr. Meredith proposed as a remedy for this state of things: That the control of the license system should be taken out of the hands of the Government. He would not fear to give this power directly to the people.

Here Mr. Drury remarked that perhaps Mr. Meredith had never sat in a Municipal Council where the law was being administered.

Mr. Meredith hoped that the hon. gentleman was not going to make any candid statement that he had been influenced by improper motives in the Council to which he referred. [Laughter.]

Continuing, the Opposition leader referred to the progress of temperance sentiment during the past 30 years. That progress he ascribed to an improvement of the morals and feelings of the people of the country. But it had been presumptuously claimed by gentlemen opposite that this marked improvement was due to the present Government.

He continued: The proposition I would make would be that the county councils in the rural districts should have the appointment of these license commissioners.

In the city of Toronto the commissioners should be elected by the people rather than by the Government of the day. What objection could there be to such a method of dealing with the matter? It might be said that the County Councils were subject to party influence, but Mr. Meredith said such influence could never be as extensive as when the power was in the hands of the Government.

The System Should Not be Prostituted.

Mr. Meredith, continuing, said: This will not be believed by honorable members opposite, but I say that such a course would be in the interests of the whole country. [Applause.] In the interests of the temperance party, in the interests of truth and of 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 wherever 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. Were this done, only the very best men would be entrusted with the confidence of the people, for they would have to go back to them from time to time to seek re-election, and would be compelled to place their records before the people for inspection. [Applause.] For then the people in whom I have more confidence than honorable gentlemen opposite, after a scrutiny of their past acts as commissioners, might and would refuse to re-elect if their confidence were found to have been misplaced. Here there would be no political power and no political influence brought to bear, and these gentlemen, whose influence and strength would rest entirely in the proper performance of their duty, would exercise themselves in favor of the simple right and without regard to the dictates of either or any political party. [Opposition applause.]

A Vile Slander on Toronto.

But honorable gentlemen opposite may say as they have said, that this method of allowing cities to elect their license commissioners would not be a satisfactory method. Mr. Speaker, I say that it would be a vile slander on the city of Toronto, for instance, to say that its people could not be entrusted with the administration of this license law in their own city. [Opposition applause.] Let them have the administration to handle as they themselves and I venture to say there will be no necessity for any complaining in future, for if the men who are elected do not do their duty, then the people will turn them out of office and put in their places men who will.

In these remarks I have pointed out the prostitution which exists in the administration of this license law, more particularly in the cases I have mentioned in Hamilton and elsewhere, and which exists to a greater or less extent, I believe, all through the Province of Ontario.

By the scheme which I submit I propose to remove entirely from partisan influence the question of license by making an entire change in the present system, a change whi ch I am thoroughly convinced would be a change in the interests of temperance, in the interests of the country, in the interest of the people and in the interests of every person engaged in the liquor traffic, and out of the traffic. I am willing to have my position in this matter criticized by the whole country. I am willing to stake my political existence on the stand we are now taking against the inroads and political dishonesty and demoralization of the honorable gentlemen opposite who constitute the present Government, and in order that there may be no mistake and no misinterpretation and no misrepresentation of our attitude, I propose, Mr. Speaker, to introduce a measure which will define our position exactly, and on this we will rest our case.

The Formal Motion.

Mr. Meredith then moved, seconded by Mr. Creighton:

That all words in the motion after the word "that" be omitted and the following substituted therefor: 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 partizan administration of the law; 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 partizan purposes of offences against its provisions; has unduly and unfairly interfered with the freedom of exercise of the 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 cause it 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 interests of non-partizan and faithful execution of the liquor license laws that the present mode of appointing boards of commissioners should be abrogated and provision be made for placing the appointment of commissioners in the hands of a body more removed from the influence of partizanship and more directly responsible to and under the control of the people.

Honorable Oliver Is Silent.

No little surprise was evident when Hon. A. S. Hardy rose to reply to Mr. Meredith. 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 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 partizan in the appointment of license commissioners. Now when the Dominion Government, the friends of the honorable leader of the Opposition, by an over-reach of power undertook to administer the license law, did they, notwithstanding what has been said, appoint non-partizan boards? No, they did not. They appointed Conservatives. They didn't appoint a single Reformer that I know of."

A Lively Scene.

Opposition cries: "Oh, yes!" "Oh, yes!"

Mr. Hardy: "Give me a name, will you? [A pause.] "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 came here with these charges, and now you are not able to give me a single name!"

Mr. Clancy (Kent): "Thomas C. McNabb of Chatham, a Reformer, was appointed to the Dominion Board." [Great laughter and evident consternation in Government ranks.]

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 licenses 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 paraded in comparison with the present condition resultant on the present and existing laws. Statistics were quoted showing that Reform hotel keepers were greatly in the minority in all places, these being prepared by the license commissioners. Speaking of the Lottridge v. Spectator libel suit in Hamilton, the speaker was prepared to accept that as a complete refutation of any and all such charges so far as Hamilton was concerned as those made by The Spectator, which were somewhat similar to those published in The World a short time ago.

Mr. Hardy said he did not wish to overwhelm his hon. friend with evidence. He would refer first to Lottridge of Hamilton. He denied that the action of a single man, acting in his own interests, bound the whole party and he thought members of both sides of the House would agree with him in this. Lottridge's letter had to be accepted for just what it was worth and no more, namely, individual interest. He read a letter signed Henry Calcutt, to keep a staff of detectives under pay in Toronto to enforce the act through Ontario. Only extreme temperance men could expect such a thing. They would take all reasonable means to enforce the act but they would not keep up a constabulary force.

The License Commissioners Immaculate.

He had made inquiry into the statements of The World against the Toronto Board of License Commissioners in order to ascertain whether the conduct of the commissioners would warrant the Government in removing them from office, and after having gone into all the facts he found that the charges made by The World were not sustained. Indeed The World in its first article boldly proclaimed that it did not pretend to bring home these charges.

[He here quoted from the article.]

He then went into the matter of granting licenses. The Toronto Board, he said, had a very undesirable duty to perform, that of cutting off 75 persons from the list of those to whom licenses would be granted. Naturally much hardship was done. Those who were cut off thought much harm was done. It might be supposed that a few of those who were cut off would be restored the next year, and this was done. These men, perhaps known and perhaps unknown, appeared before the commissioners and received their licenses. As to political favor being shown in the granting of licenses he would state that out of the sixteen left off last year four were Conservatives, eight Reformers and the others were women or had no politics.

He Was Told So.

He had also made inquiry into the so-called license guarantee fund. The man whose check was published in The World is a Reformer. [Applause.] He is a well-known Reformer. This man gave his check as a subscription to the general Reform fund. It was stated that this check was given as a bribe to ensure the granting of a license, but it was plain to see that it was not given for any such purpose, as the hotelkeeper was an active member of the party. He was told that no subscriptions were asked from any hotelkeepers who were not Reformers.

Mr. Meredith: That is not so.

Mr. Hardy said he was told so.

The Way the Tories Did.

Was it permissible for the Reform party to accept contributions from hotelkeepers? If it was not the Conservative party could not say they adopted permissible measures to fill the party coffers. A meeting not a great while ago was called at the Queen's Hotel and brewers, distillers and hotelkeepers were summoned from east, west, north and south. They came and they were told what their assessment would be supplied in proportion to the contributions they made. [Applause.]

A Return to the Old System.

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 Province 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.]

The House then rose.

After Recess.

Mr. H. E. Clarke continued the debate. It the hon. gentleman's speech were ten times as long and ten times as effective it could lay claim to being conclusive. He did not meet any of the arguments advanced by his hon. friend from London. The withdrawal of the Lottridge case did not affect the evidence. It was plainly shown that this inspector went around among the hotelkeepers canvassing them on behalf of the Reform party. In the reply made to his hon. friend's argument in favor of removing the license management from the Government the lion. the Minister of Crown Lands brings up his old stock argument, "Sir John favors it." His friend from London did not propose to place a power in the hands of the Dominion Government or any other Government. He proposed to place the government of the license granting in the hands of the people and take it out of the hands of politicians. As to the Queen's Hotel meetings he attended and did not hear of any subscriptions. But when the revelations of The World burst upon his hon. friend the Premier he must have used some strong language. He fancied that the language was plain and terse, but much unlike a Bible verse. It was not pleasant, perhaps, for the First Minister of that model party to see printed page after page of abominable corruption and these illustrated by photographic pictures of blood money which passed through the hands of the Government agent into the coffers of the Reform party. He attacked the system which gives the Government of the day the influence of the license inspectors and through them the liquor interest. No class of the community should be placed in the position of dependence on the Government for their living.

Other Voices.

Mr. Gibson gave some information as to the appointment of license commissioners in Huron and the action of commissioners in that county, and nothing was done there that would not bear the light of day.

Dr. Willoughby drew another kind of a picture. He described the doings of license commissioners in East Northumberland as a crying scandal. He would rather face the whole cabinet on the stump than contend with one license commissioner. At the general election he had been defeated where if the people had been allowed to give a fair expression of opinion his majority would have gone into the hundreds. He offered to furnish abundant testimony before an independent tribunal to the effect that hotel-keepers in his constituency were subjected to the grossest tyranny.

Mr. G. B. Smith replied. He saw in the charges advanced by the Opposition nothing very much which needed any lengthy reply, as these charges were, he said, but a part of a fault-finding policy adopted by the Opposition. Statistics were quoted to prove that at least so far as the County of York was concerned, the administration of the present Government of the license could be considered as having been fairly and honestly conducted.

Mr. G. W. Ostrom, who represents the West Riding of Hastings, in a brief but able speech confirmed what Mr. Willoughby had stated in reference to the lax administration of the law in the County of Northumberland. Mr. Ostrom prefaced his remarks with a hope that the whole debate would be fully reported by all the newspapers. This remark produced considerable laughter from all the members, whereupon Mr. Ostrom modestly said he did not refer particularly to his own speech but to the debate in general.

Replying to Mr. Ostrom, Mr. J. Waters (Middlesex) argued that the County Councils in whose hands the Opposition proposed to place the administration, were as liable to corruption by party and partizans as the present Government was. For his own part, he placed himself on record as opposed to the liquor traffic in any shape or form whatever.

Mr. Whitney's Onslaught.

Mr. J. P. Whitney (Dundas) made a rattling arraignment of the policy of the Government, declaring, that from the way the administration of the license law had been conducted he was of opinion that the power of saying who should and who should not sell liquor ought to be taken out of the hands of the Government entirely, and kept out of the hands of any Government. He continued, citing specific cases where the requirements of the law had been made subservient to the expediency of political life and challenging the Government to investigate his and other charges, in which case he would be prepared to prove the truth of statements he was making.

Next to defend the Government's course was the Provincial Treasurer, Mr. A. M. Ross, who wanted specific and authentic charges from the leader of the Opposition, and wanted these charges investigated and proven before he could be induced to conceive that any change of license law administration was either necessary or advisable. From the beginning of the debate, he said, it had been evident that the Opposition had received their information from The World, and the only thing which was a matter of surprise to him was that, with all the pretended material as his back, the leader of the Opposition was unable to make more tenable charges.

There Was a Private Investigation.

About the time the alleged charges were made in The World, he (Mr. Ross), as head of the license department, had received from a brewer in Toronto a letter marked "private and confidential," in which complaint was made that this gentleman had been and was being unfairly treated by fellow brewers in Toronto, and asking that an investigation be held or some action taken forthwith to remedy the alleged grievance. To that letter a reply was sent stating that until specific charges were made the Government could take no action, and within a day or two The World came out with the series of charges. Then, in order to ascertain the correctness of these charges, a private investigation was held by the Government which showed clearly these very charges to be absolutely without foundation. [Government applause.] After this investigation was concluded another letter, also marked "private and confidential," was received from the same brewer who had previously complained, and to this letter an official reply was sent offering if the complainant would take the onus of proving the charges to have a public investigation. That offer has up to the present time not been accepted. [Government applause.]

Hotelkeepers' Statement.

Here Mr. Ross produced this statement, which was signed by 143 out of 150 Toronto hotelkeepers, and which was accepted as a complete refutation of the charges made by The World.

Statements having been published by The World newspaper that contributions have been sought from or obtained from the hotelkeepers of Toronto for political and other purposes, under threat of loss or promise of political or other influence in obtaining our licenses, we give the above statement our emphatic denial, and further declare that we have never known of the existence of a so-called or alleged "License Guarantee Fund," or any fund of like character.

And we also declare that in no instance has the Board of License Commissioners, or any member of the Board, at any time or in any way, directly or indirectly, requested or advised us where to buy our trade supplies.

And that in no manner have we been influenced or intimidated by Board or member of the Board in matters of trade relations between brewers, liquor dealers, distillers, cigar manufacturers, or dealers, and ourselves.

But that on the other hand we are perfectly at free to purchase our trade merchandise as other mercantile men, and that we declare the charges preferred by The World newspaper to be false and without foundation.

This statement was received with loud and continued applause by the Government members, mingled with jeers and laughter from the Opposition, and strengthened and encouraged by this demonstration Mr. Ross continued his reply, reviewing the main features of the debate from its inception.

He Brought in the Fire Escape.

Mr. R. H. Preston the member from Leeds, attacked the Government on the ground of the political influence exerted by inspectors, with particular reference to the fire escape question. He complained that the Toronto inspector had refused to approve of certain kinds of fire escapes on hotels in order to aid the manufacturers or agents of a certain other kind in the sale of their escapes.

Two Government members continued the debate in brief speeches, that of Mr. T. Murray of Renfrew being simply a eulogy of hotel keepers who would not be coerced, and a denouncement of those who were such cowards as to submit to dictation from anyone. He said, no such thing as coercion existed in his constituency. Mr. A. Bishop of South Huron spoke in broad Scotch, and interested the House by narrating his temperance principles and the views he held in reference to the taking o' a glass o' beer.

The Debate Adjourned.

Mr. Wylie moved the adjournment of the debate. Government members cried, "No, no," and Mr. Mowat said: "Let it go on till 12 o'clock." This brought Mr. Meredith to his feet. He pressed his point, arguing that so far this session he had conceded every point to the Government, but would press this one as the question under discussion was of the greatest interest to the public and, said he, "if the Government have the clean side of the case they claim to have, they ought to have no hesitation in allowing the public to have the fullest report of it." Mr. Mowat then consented and the House adjourned.

Other Business.

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. Leys bill to amend the Municipal Act was considered in the Municipal Committee and reported. Mr. H. E. Clarke's bill was agreed to, the clause taxing local improvements on a basis of property valuations instead of by a front foot system being eliminated.

After some discussion consideration of the clauses in Mr. Leys' bill relating to the city's liability for use of the county jail and courthouse was postponed until to-day.

These bills were read a third time: Respecting the Ontario and Sault Ste. Marie Water, Light and Power Company and the town of Sault Ste. Marie; respecting the better protection of inescitvorous and other birds; respecting the consolidation of the debenture debt of the city of Toronto.

Mr. Clarke moved that the above bill be discharged and referred back to committee, where it was passed.

R. A. Gunn, M.D., Dean and professor of Surgery, of the United States Medical College; Editor of "Medical Tribune," Author of Gunn's New and Improved Hand-book of Hygiene and Domestic Medicine," referring to Warner's Safe Cure, said: "I find that in Bright's disease it seems to act as a solvent of albumen: to soothe and heal inflamed membranes, and wash out epithelial debris which blocks up the tubuli uriniferi (urine bearing tubes, and to prevent the destructive meamorpeosis of tissue. . . . . I am willing to acknowledge and commend thus frankly the value of Warner's Safe Cure."

THE SPORTS OF THE DAY.

Parkdale Cricket Club Meeting—A Shooting Match by Wire.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 14.—The fight to a finish last night between Sailor Brown of New York and young Mitchell of San Francisco for $1500 and the middle-weight championship of the Pacific Coast resulted in a victory for the latter at the end of the twenty-first round. The fight took place at the rooms of the Golden Gate Athletic Club. Billy Jordan was chosen referee. Both men were in fine condition, Brown weighing 155 pounds and Mitchell 156. Brown looked a trifle nervous, while Mitchell carried himself confidently.

Up to the twentieth round the fighting was about even, but in this round Mitchell got in some heavy work, and had the sailor nearly knocked out, but time was called in time to save him.

In the twenty-first round Brown was unsteady. Mitchell had everything his own way and knocked the sailor down repeatedly. He struggled to his feet, but made no attempt to defend himself. Finally Mitchell walked up to him and delivered a terrific right-hander on the jaw, knocking the sailor senseless and winning the fight.

To Race at Saratoga.

That Saratoga is still a popular racing centre is shown by the fact that 708 entries were made to the association's stakes, which closed March 1. In the long list of nominations are the names of R