

out in the following letter from the Commissioners to the Provincial Secretary.

"The Commissioners accepted office reluctantly as a public duty, on the personal assurance of the Premier and the written statement of the Provincial Secretary that the Government desired a fair, fearless and non-partisan administration of the Liquor License Act.

"During the period in which they have held office, they have sought to be sane, fairminded and just in the discharge of duties singularly unpleasant, and personally distasteful to all the members of the board.

"To insure this fairmindedness, from the first they decided as a policy of the board, for its own guidance, that they would seek only to take such action as carried their unanimous judgment. All decisions which have been reached were in accordance with this policy, and on no question has a decision been arrived at and acted upon except on the unanimous approval of the board.

"In the discharge of their duties they had the assistance of the Chief Inspector, Thomas Hastings. **They found him efficient, honest, fearless and non-partisan.** Neither by direct nor indirect means has he sought to influence the Commissioners in any matter under discussion. He has been painstaking and careful in collecting and furnishing the board with information called for by them, and has not intruded his opinion about license holders, nor upon matters dealt with by the board, but has acted entirely under their direction in carrying out the policy laid down for him by the unanimous decision of the board.

"It was known to the board that some party workers were engaged in intrigues against the Inspector and the Commissioners but they refused to notice the intrigues or intriguers, as they considered it unthinkable that the Government having committed to a body of men the enforcement of the law, would act upon the advice of such intriguers without consulting with the Commissioners, who were seeking to carry out the verbal instructions of the Premier and the written directions of the Provincial Secretary.

"The retaining of the Chief Inspector for nine months and then, without a word of consultation with the Commissioners, dismissing him at a time when his experience, fidelity and capacity were so much needed by the board in carrying out its policy gave such plain evidence of a deliberate purpose to render abortive the non-partisan policy of the Commissioners, and to interfere with the course of a body of independent men