

AGAINST THE ISLAND LICENSE

Prohibitionists Renew Their Annual Charges.

PREMIER HARDY'S REPLY.

He Says That the Accusations are Made Late in the Day

And That the Influence of the Board of License Commissioners Has Preponderated on the Side of Temperance. The Charges Will Be Fully Considered—Complaint From Long Branch Summer Residents as to an Adjacent Hotel.

A deputation from the Toronto Prohibition Union waited upon the Provincial Government yesterday afternoon to present against the re-appointment of the present Board of License Commissioners on the alleged ground of defiance of public opinion in the matter of the Island license and the question of transfers.

The following composed the deputation: Revs. Dr. W. F. Campbell and William Frizzell, and Messrs. W. H. Orr, John S. Lucas, James Thompson, J. Hughes, Dr. J. T. Fisher, Lewis Peake, C. F. Fawcett, Mrs. Dr. Campbell and Mrs. Vance.

Hon. A. S. Hardy, Hon. E. J. Davis, Hon. J. M. Gibson, Mr. W. R. Ross, Hon. John Dryden, Hon. Richard Harcourt and Hon. Mr. Hardy were the members of the cabinet present.

CHIEF SPOKESMAN. Rev. William Frizzell, President of the Toronto Prohibition Union, said they were very much encouraged in the knowledge that the Government was in sympathy with the aims of the prohibitionists, and that they sought was a change in the personnel of the Toronto License Commissioners.

The Prohibition Union had come to the conclusion that the commissioners had not been carrying out the expressed wishes of the temperance people, the City Council and some other organizations that had given no uncertain sound on certain points. For example, the granting of a wine and beer license on the Island, this was opposed by a large representation of the citizens before the License Commissioners. Representations were also made to the Government on this subject. Yet, in spite of these strong protests, the license for the Island was granted.

Residents on the Island also very strongly opposed the granting of this license, and the City Council passed a resolution in 1905 to 1 against the license.

Further, the deputation and those they represented felt that this hotel license was an invasion of territory which had been considered prohibition ground. Hence they hoped for a favorable consideration of their request.

DEFIANCE OF OPINION.

Mr. W. H. Orr supported the statements of Mr. Frizzell. The policy, he asserted, of the citizens is one of sharp repression, but this policy was not being carried out by the License Commissioners. Licensees had been granted to clubs and associations of young men. The commissioners had also exceeded in the granting of licenses which the population required, and in opposition to the wishes of the people. Especially in what they regarded as one of the playgrounds of the people, where they were prohibited territory. The policy of the city had been to repel and discourage the granting of licenses on the Island. This policy has been overturned by the present commissioners. Hence the deputation asked that they be not re-appointed.

MODICUM OF PROHIBITION.

Mrs. Chamberlain, representing the W. C. T. U., asked that the Government give the people prohibition as far as possible. She objected to the arbitrary transfer of licenses by the commissioners.

Mr. James Thompson asserted that the license on the Island could not be said to be for the accommodation of the traveling public. Hence it should be revoked. He also objected to the Chamberlain's remarks on the "abuse of the transfer system. Public houses were planted in poor districts, which impoverished the people already too poor, and, as a result, families had to be aided in the winter by the charitable institutions of the city. License commissioners were supposed to only grant licenses where they had been proven. This could not be proved in several instances, and he referred to St. John's Ward in proof of his statement.

Another complaint the speaker made to the Government was that the license holders sell liquor after legal hours on Saturday evenings and all day on Sunday, and they are not disturbed by the License Commissioners.

The inspectors of the police, in conclusion, should not be appointed as a reward for political services. If better commissioners were appointed, Toronto would have a better record.

THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said in reply: "It would have been more convenient if the deputation had come a little earlier in the year. We were under the impression that the deputation would be a satisfactory manner. We based our impression on the absence of complaints and the way in which they had been doing their work during the last two years. It would not be right to decide the question raised on the basis of one side only. The other side will have their say. If there were any instances of personal hardship, that might influence us. If all parties were here there might be a different aspect of the case. I do not desire to express any view as to what the Government may do in regard to the present license board. With my colleagues, I will talk the matter over. I thank you for your representations."

Mr. Orr: When may we expect to hear of the appointment of the Toronto commissioners?

The Premier: They are usually appointed in January, but, strictly speaking, they should be appointed before Jan. 1. Sometimes the selection is made earlier.

Mr. Lewis C. Peake: We have frequently been told that this is a temperance Government, and, therefore, we have a right to expect that in the appointment of License Commissioners the preponderance would be given to those who respect temperance and not the reverse. In almost every case the decision of the License Commissioners has been against the temperance sentiment.

The Premier: You do not see the other side in these decisions. The preponderance I believe to be the other way. My experience has been that in the great majority of cases the temperance view has prevailed.

Mr. Peake: What about the Island license?

Mr. Hardy: I do not think the Government had the Island in view specially in regard to these decisions.

Hon. Mr. Gibson: We have heard that the Island has been more orderly

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