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*Harcourt, Richard*

SPEECH

BY THE

**Hon. R. Harcourt**

ON

THE NEW LICENSE BILL.

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HON. R. HARCOURT, M.P.P., Provincial Treasurer, in moving the second reading of the License Bill, during the Session of the Ontario Legislature, 1897, spoke as follows:—

This bill has been discussed largely in the press; it has been discussed at public meetings. Such merits as it has have been pointed out, and its demerits also from one point of view have been made known. It is not surprising, Sir, that a bill dealing with this subject should receive marked attention throughout the country. The subject is deserving of the attention which it receives. No matter of legislation more affects the welfare of our people, more deeply concerns the betterment of their condition, than this legislation affecting the liquor problem and the direction of temperance sentiment in our midst. Similar legislation, or similar attempts at legislation in every other country have received just the same attention at the hands of the press, in public meetings and otherwise. Not only, therefore, have we the advantage of its being thoroughly discussed in the country, but we have also the advantage of learning the views of very important delegations, which at one time or another, representing different sides of the question, have waited not only upon the government but upon groups of honorable members who perchance differ from the government.

It is to be regretted, Sir, that the discussion evinces only a partial knowledge of the contents of the bill, only a limited apprecia-