

trouble in order to record their vote, and do so without any hesitation. And so we name the day in the act now, so that those who wish to consider what they are going to do will have ample time to ponder on this thing.

Mr. WHITNEY: What course will you pursue in the case of an election by acclamation?

Mr. ROSS: In the case of an election by acclamation, when the percentage is struck for the whole Province, if there is, say, 75 per cent. of the votes polled, then 75 per cent. will hold where there has been an election by acclamation.

The Question of Revenue.

There are two other considerations which I will submit to the House in a few words. This bill not only involves serious changes in the business of a great many people, and a change perhaps in the social organization of many families, but it also means a substantial loss of revenue. I have always taken the ground that we should never consider loss of revenue as against the moral advantages of prohibition and temperance where they were in force. I have said so years ago. I have said so in the House of Commons. I say so now, that if it is a matter of choice between loss of revenue and the evil consequences to flow from intoxicating liquors, we could very well afford to give up the revenue, providing the evil consequences of intemperance could be prevented. That is the only judgment I have had, and yet we must not be blind to the fact that there will be a substantial loss of revenue. The holders of licenses pay into the treasuries of the municipalities and the Provincial treasury a revenue of about \$700,000 in tavern and shop licenses, and the licenses on distilleries and breweries. Of this sum the Province receives \$376,000. We could adjust our finances to that loss without much difficulty. No doubt the municipalities could adjust their accounts to the loss they would suffer. I mention this as one of the points to be considered in coming to a decision as to what should be done.

Question of Compensation.

Then there is the larger question of compensation. It has been said that any legislation dealing with the prohibition of the liquor traffic would not be just without compensation to those whose business is affected. The bill does not deal with