

and that the spoils faction, which, noisy as it is, does not constitute two per cent. of any political party, exercises a controlling influence over Mr. Whitney and his associates."

The Toronto News is in a position to know the conditions under which the present Government administers the affairs of this Province, and I accept its statement at its full face value "that there could be no clearer intimation that the enforcement of the law is held to be secondary to the interests of the Conservative party, and that the spoils faction exercises a controlling influence over Mr. Whitney and his associates." The misfortune of it all is, from the standpoint of the Province and of the cause of temperance reform, that conditions have been growing worse and political influence and the spoils system have been steadily increasing their baneful influence in the administration of the liquor license laws of this Province. We also find that similar conditions are commencing to prevail with reference to law enforcement. I give the present Government credit that during the earlier years of its administration it put forth a vigorous and in many respects successful, effort to enforce the liquor laws of this Province, but recently, and no doubt largely due to the increasing domination of political considerations in its enforcement, there has been a serious relaxation in law enforcement. In the report of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance for the year 1911, they state:

"We regret, however, to have to say that for the last two or three years there has been a decided falling off along this line, and to-day things seem to be slipping back into the old rut of incompetent and bad officials, and unfriendly Board of License Commissioners.

"To-day, instead of praise, there must be censure of the present Government for laxity along this line. Conditions in the Province of Ontario are not now as good as they were three or four years ago, so far as the local officers are concerned.

"The thing that has saved the situation from becoming intolerable is the good work of the Provincial inspectors. The energy and ability of these seemingly ubiquitous officers but make more evident the good-for-nothingness of many of the local officials.

"Complaints are continually and increasingly coming into the Alliance office about law violation. The secretary replies, asking if the matter has been reported to the local inspector, and, with disheartening sameness, the answer comes back, 'Our local inspector is no good.'"

Conditions Worse Than Ever.

And now Mr. Ayeerst, who was Chief Inspector, has retired and gone West, and since his retirement I am led to believe conditions have become still worse. The only satisfactory remedy for these conditions is the elimination of political influences from the administration of the liquor license laws of this Province, not by the appointment of a commission for which the Government will not be responsible, but by the appointment of a commission or commissioners, for whose acts the Government will be responsible. Here again, the issue is clearly and sharply defined between the Government and the Liberal party. Our platform is to secure the removal of the administration of the license laws from political influences. If you believe in that policy, we ask for your support.