

be "The opinion of this Convention, that without interfering with the laws regulating the liquor traffic, and limiting the number of licenses that may be issued, the power of issuing licenses, and the fees derived therefrom, should be restored to the municipalities." In speaking to this resolution Mr. Meredith said that "He was prepared to say that the present Opposition, if it took office, would be prepared to wipe away the partizan commissioners. (Cheers.) He was prepared to restore to the people of the Province the rights they formerly exercised. (Cheers.) He was prepared to give back to the municipal bodies the rights they formerly enjoyed." (Cheers.)—From report in *Mail*.

Its policy in 1883:—This policy was further pursued in a resolution in amendment to order for Committee of Supply, 24th January, 1883, moved by Mr. Meredith, practically covering the preceding ground.

Its policy in 1890:—The policy of the Opposition was again re-constructed by the submission of the following resolution during the session of the Legislature of 1890 as an amendment to the Hon. Mr. Gibson's measure: "That the Bill be not now read a third time, but be referred back to a Committee of the whole House, and so amended as to provide that the license commissioners hereafter be appointed in counties by county councils, and in cities and towns elected by the municipal electors of such cities and towns." Mr. Meredith returned to this platform in his recent speech at London, on May 21st, 1894."

Its policy in 1892:—In 1892 the Opposition unitedly supported an amendment to the License Act to enable brewers to sell indiscriminately throughout the Province, their trade being restricted to licensed dealers. Mr. Meredith moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Hammill, "That the Bill be not now read a third time, but be referred back to a Committee of the whole House, with instructions to strike out of the fifth section the words "to persons being holders of a license to sell under the said Act." The effect of this would be to enable them to sell to everybody whether holder of a license or not.

Its policy in 1893:—In 1893 the Opposition, finding that its conduct toward the liquor traffic had alienated from them the public sympathy, made a bold bid to detach support from the Liberal party by the introduction of what became known as the "Marter Bill." This Bill purported to abolish the retail liquor traffic. The proposal was neither honest nor practical. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council had determined that there was no distinction between wholesale and retail selling. The right of the Province to give municipalities the power to prohibit, otherwise than is incident to licensing, was, and is still, being contested before the Supreme Courts in an appeal against the Local Option Law. In view of the decision of the Judicial Committee on the one hand, and the doubt and uncertainty of jurisdiction on the other, it was apparent that to pass the Bill would result in the indiscriminate sale of liquor without license during a prolonged contention from court to court. The Bill was therefore defeated, and the Government took immediate steps to obtain a decision of the highest courts on all points involving prohibition of the liquor traffic. By consent of the Dominion Government the case has been already argued before the Supreme Court of Canada, and the final decision is being hastened.

On the introduction of a Bill to take a plebiscite on the question of abolishing the liquor traffic the Opposition objected to the proposal and voted against it. On the third reading of the Bill Mr. Meredith moved to limit the question to be placed before the electors to prohibition by the Provincial Legislature. The purpose of this was to prevent the result of the vote from being used to influence opinion in favor of prohibition in the Dominion Parliament.

Its policy in 1894:—Regarding Mr. Meredith's present proposal for a return to municipal control of license affairs, it must be remembered that the temperance people have never favored that view; not a single petition has been received from them nor a resolution passed to that end, so that his proposal is in opposition to what the temperance people want.

The delegation that waited on the Government from the Hotel-keepers' Association on April 5th, 1894, also expressed their preference for the present system of granting licenses through commissioners to the system which preceded it, and that the present system was alike better, having regard to the public interest as well as to the interests of the legitimate trade. In reply to further questions on this point the delegation unanimously expressed the opinion that it would be very harmful both to the public and the legitimate trade to revert to the old system of municipal control. It was also stated that this was the unanimous opinion of the whole convention, as well as of the delegates who were present.