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GUINANE—ONLY KING AT ST. JOHN'S ST. 1000.

JOHN GUINANE, Ltd. of GUINANE BROS.
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LICENSE BILL ALMOST LAW

The Much-Abused Measure Through Committee.

THERE WAS OPPOSITION

Against Municipal Regulation of Licenses and Hours.

The Section Relating to Municipal Control of Hours of Opening and Closing Will Be Re-considered. Many of the Doctors Differed on Some Points. Some Smart Arguments—Marked Absence of Party Feeling—Many More Were Withdrawing Orders for Drink in Clubs—Many Third Readings.

The Government met with tolerable success in putting through its license bill in committee yesterday. One section, and one section only, stands over, and that is the one which throws upon the municipalities the responsibility of regulating the number of hours of sale of liquor.

The House went into committee on the liquor license amendments, Mr. Stratton presiding. Sub-section 4, section 1, was objected to by Mr. German. It reads: "But the preceding parts of this section shall not apply to county towns having a population of 2500 or less." Mr. German moved to amend it so that it would read: "But the preceding parts of this section shall not apply to county towns having a population of 2500 or less, or to any other town having a population of 2500 or less."

Section 2, fixing the limit of licenses to be issued after a new census to be one for each full 250 of the population under 1000, was adopted without amendment. A RETROGRADE STEP. Mr. German objected to section 2, which gave municipalities control of the number of licenses and of the hours of sale of liquor. He said it would lead to trouble between the liquor men and the temperance people in the municipalities. He moved in amendment to the effect that the licenses and hours of sale should be regulated by the Government. He said it was advisable to regulate to make people happy.

Mr. Meacham explained that, although the municipalities could shorten the hours, they could not lengthen them beyond the limit fixed by the Government. Mr. German agreed with Mr. German that investing the power in the municipalities was a retrograde step. He read a resolution of the Legislative Conference of 1892, supporting his view. He did not care how early or how late the Government fixed the hour of closing, but they should not shift the responsibility on the shoulders of the municipalities.

NO MUNICIPAL POLITICS. Mr. Cleland argued that the bill would throw the responsibility of licensing into municipal politics with the effect that questions of more vital importance would be relegated to the background and the issue be clouded.

Mr. Meacham thought the Government should take the responsibility of regulating both the number of hotels and of the hours of sale. He admitted, however, that the temperance people were by no means united on the subject. He suggested that the Government fix the hour of closing at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Cleland did not agree with the previous speaker. He held that the nearer to the people the authority rested the better for the law. The public sentiment of the province was not sufficient to make it feasible to place the power in the hands of the municipalities.

THE QUESTION OF NOTICE. Mr. Crawford had taken exception to the clause in the second reading. The particular objection was in the subsection providing that formal notice should be given on or before Nov. 15. This would cause a possibility of having the annual municipal elections run on temperance lines. This might not be in the best interests of electors. He favored striking out the subsection referred to and replacing it with a clause...

Mr. Meacham said that the clause was necessary to give the municipalities time to prepare for the new regulations. He said it was not a question of whether or not the municipalities were to be given notice, but of when.

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Mr. German objected to the clause preventing the sale of liquor to minors in clubs. He said that most men who became drunkards began when they were over 21. He thought that the clause was unnecessary. He then moved to amend the clause, which was then carried.

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AGITATORS' FIELD DAY.

Agitators' Addresses at a Meeting in Queen's Park—Will Wait on Mayor and Premier.

A crowd of between three and four hundred, more than half of whom were Toronto's unemployed, assembled in Queen's Park yesterday afternoon and listened to the rantings of such men as Citizen John Dunlop and Citizen Waite. There were other speakers whose remarks were moderate and contained an ounce or so of sense, which appealed to the real unemployed workmen who are desirous of getting a job. This class of the gathering were not at all in sympathy with a lot that was said.

The meeting was called for 4 o'clock, and at that hour there was a good crowd present. The agitators waited to hold forth in front of the Parliament Building, but the sub-terfuge ones, who really wanted to do business, thought the band stand a more suitable place.

Plasterer Bond presided, and in his opening remarks he called the agitators to support the house of the Government, and to be done. Such petty excuses as that the frost is still in the ground were not at all in sympathy with a lot that was said.

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