

purposes, and legislation of this character ought to be enacted forthwith."

Further, we herewith forward copies of this resolution to the Hon. Frank Cochrane, Sir Robert Borden, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with the earnest hope that they may be able to use their powers to have the said resolution most cordially adopted by the House.

Signed on behalf of the ministers of North Bay.

J. G. Bowles, Secretary.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL: The hon. member for Vancouver and myself have attempted to show that a profound feeling in favour of prohibition prevails generally in the various provinces of Canada. Before six o'clock I tried to give an idea of the immense revolution that has taken place in the province of Quebec in this connection. The more consideration I give to the matter, the more I am convinced that if, especially at this time, an opportunity were given to that province to express itself on the question of prohibition, there would be a majority in its favour. I have given the evidence of some of the leading men in that province to show the great change that has been brought about.

I am glad to be able to say that the effect of prohibition in those parts of Canada where it has been introduced has not been penalizing—far from it. On the contrary, it has been entirely to the benefit of the people; there are few instances in recent years where prohibition, after having been once accepted, was rejected. Take, for instance, the effect of the introduction of prohibition in Saskatchewan. I have here the following statement of Mr. Koepke, field secretary of the "Banish the Bar" crusade:

The Liquor Act which was passed on the first of July last brought about a great change in this province, doing away with 417 bar licenses, all the club licenses in the cities, and the railroad licenses, and changing the wholesale places, 38 in number, into 23 Government-owned liquor stores.

The province was divided into 67 districts, 19 of these having liquor stores or dispensaries, and the remaining 48 having no liquor stores. The immediate result of this was a great reduction in the bulk of liquor consumed. Government figures for the month of July showed a reduction of 95 per cent over the average amount, and since then figures anywhere from 80 to 90 per cent reduction. It has almost entirely done away with the treating system. It has stopped a great deal of recruiting in the army of drinkers. Great satisfaction is expressed all over the province. The people are delighted with all of the changes, except the

[Mr. Marcil.]

dispensary feature. There is dissatisfaction in the centres where these Government-owned stores are established.

According to the provisions of the Act, all liquor stores that were situated in towns of less than one thousand population could be attacked this year by a movement to vote them out. The vote was thus brought on in three districts out of nineteen. Also campaigns could be brought on to put in liquor stores where there were none, but out of the forty-eight only four attempted to put them in. This made campaigns in each of seven districts, three to close the liquor stores, and four to open stores. The election took place on the 13th of December last, resulting in a most decisive victory for the temperance forces. The three liquor stores were put out with large majorities, and the stores were kept out of the four districts by overwhelming majorities.

In one district where there were seven towns in a row, the seven towns gave a total of 22 wet votes. One municipality, comprising 15 townships, gave a total of 14 wet votes, and over 400 dry votes. The results show conclusively that "booze" is in disfavour in this great prairie province, and it is safe to predict that next year the remaining twenty liquor stores will be abolished. The results of the foregoing votes are prophetic of the end of the whole dispensary system.

The work in the province has been very encouraging, but very strenuous. The people are clamouring for a Dominion vote on the entire situation, having in view the total abolition of the intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes. Saskatchewan is ready for this next great step.

I shall refer to the effect of prohibition in the province of Alberta only by reading a despatch, published in the papers of Saturday, March 3, which tells how the second reading of the Prohibition Bill was treated in the Alberta Legislature, showing the unanimous feeling that exists among the representatives of the people. The despatch follows:

Edmonton, Alta., March 3.—Practically without a word of comment, the Sale of Intoxicating Liquor (Prohibition) Bill was read a second time in the Legislature this afternoon, and now only awaits consideration by the House in Committee before it comes up for third reading and then becomes a law in the statute book of the province.

The Bill, which goes into force on July 1, will effect prohibition in the province in so far as it is within the control of the provincial authorities—that is to say, it absolutely forbids the sale in Alberta, except in so far as it is required for medicinal and mechanical purposes. When the Act comes into force 281 wholesale and retail licenses become inoperative. At the time the referendum resulted in adoption of the Act on July 31 last by 19,500 majority, there were 253 hotel, 13 club and 55 wholesale licenses in operation.

In Manitoba, as the House has been informed, a referendum will be taken on this question on March 13 next. In the meantime, it may be interesting to mention the results of the votes that have already