

PROHIBITION PASSES COMMITTEE OF HOUSE

Reported for Third Reading Shortly Before Midnight—Vote 30 to 2, Capt. Tilley and Mr. Grannan Opposing—Opposition Members Absent When Vote Took Place—Despicable Methods of Opposition Exposed by Hon. Mr. Baxter in Scathing Denunciation.

Fredericton, April 27.—The prohibition bill passed the committee stage in the legislature today and was reported for third reading shortly before the house adjourned about midnight tonight. It was the most strenuous day the house has had this session, practically all of it being devoted to the vote which stood thirty to two, the contentious portions of the measure being finally disposed of.

On motion that committee report the bill agreed to a division was called and vote stood thirty to two. Only one voting against the bill being Capt. Tilley and Mr. Grannan of St. John. Two opposition members for Madawaska were conspicuously absent when the vote took place, and during most of the time the bill was under consideration.

This may be accounted for by the scathing denunciation which Attorney-General Baxter, earlier in the day had pronounced upon their mentor. Perhaps they were offering their much deserved sympathy to the unfortunate Mr. E. S. Carter, who had brought this legislation upon himself by one of his grandest performances which he calculated would bring himself publicity—to be sure that of a different character than that which resulted.

Never in the history of the legislature was a more striking exposition of the despicable methods of the present opposition and its director of ceremonies delivered than that which Hon. Mr. Baxter pronounced this afternoon when Mr. Dugal had stood up in his place and read a speech prepared for him and then took up with a long letter addressed to "My Dear Dugal" from "Yours truly, E. S. Carter."

Not since the days of old "Progress" had so much fiction been spilled at one time as in this letter to "My Dear Dugal," and when Mr. Dugal came to that portion towards the close where Mr. Carter expressed himself as being "glad to have the opportunity of writing to you," the house broke out into laughter and applause. It is another case of where political "Huns" gas bombs have reacted upon themselves.

Several Changes in Prohibition Bill. While the principle of the act has not been affected, and while the percentage of proof spirits allowed in beverages deemed to be non-intoxicants, remains at two per cent, there have been a number of more or less important changes made in the provisions of the bill, but all with the idea of insuring that it would be workable and that nothing in the interests of temperance should be left undone. Chief of changes, perhaps, is that which does away with setting forth of any schedule or licensed drug which a physician or licensed druggist shall keep on hand for prescription purposes or that a hospital shall be allowed to have. New provisions which are made as result of representation in the house today by doctors who are members of the house, make it possible for a physician, a licensed retail druggist or a hospital to have on hand whatever amount of liquor is required for their bona fide purposes under provisions of the act.

Another change of interest is in respect to hours at which licensed beer shops can keep open. It was provided in the original bill that they should close on Saturday evening at 5 o'clock but it was pointed out that as they were only licensed non-intoxicants, with up to 2 per cent. of proof spirits, there was no more reason why they should close at an early hour on Saturday more than any other day.

The bill will come into force in every municipality in New Brunswick in which the liquor license act is now in force on May 1st, 1917, and will be automatically effective in municipalities where Scott Act is now in force just as soon as they repeal the Scott Act. A referendum is provided for in the following sections: "After declaration of peace, consequent upon the termination of the present war, and after this act shall have been in force and operation for a sufficient length of time to enable its efficiency to be fairly tested, it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant Governor-in-council to appoint a day for holding of an election for or against retention of said act in municipalities subject thereto. All provisions of the New Brunswick Elections Act, 1916, shall be applicable to such election as far as may be."

been reached. At the conclusion of tonight's session, Mr. Shipp, M.L.A., entertained about twenty-five of the members of the government and of the legislature at a large party at his residence on Church street, this being one of a series of such affairs given for the members this session by the member for Queens.

One of the strongest speeches against the prohibition bill was that of Capt. Tilley of St. John. The son of the illustrious introducer of the only other prohibitory law New Brunswick ever had, came out strongly against prohibition, and this from a man who has always been recognized as one of the temperance leaders among public men of the province, was at least a surprise. Capt. Tilley, however, feels that the interest of temperance in New Brunswick can be much better served in other ways than by putting into effect a prohibition law, and he dealt with his views on the subject in convincing terms. He fears that a state of affairs such as exists in many Scott Act places will be province-wide and that liquor will be illicitly sold at all hours of the day and night, as he declared is now being done at Newcastle, St. Stephen and other places to which he referred. He favors a high license law with local provisions and believes a three-fifths clause such as is in the Ontario Act is required to insure an efficient enforcement of a prohibitory act.

The House met at 2:15 p. m. Hon. Mr. Baxter submitted the report of the law committee and Mr. Munro that of the municipalities committee. Hon. Mr. Murray introduced a bill relating to the International Railway. In doing so he said that in the year 1904 a bill was passed through the House granting a subsidy of \$2,500 a mile towards the construction of this railway and this, he might say in passing, was the last subsidy ever granted to any railway company by any government in this province. Subsequently the province also guaranteed the first mortgage bonds of the company to the extent of \$8,000 per mile and later took a second mortgage to cover the amount of the subsidy previously granted, and representations, it is said, were made in connection with the giving of such guarantee, and the taking of such second mortgage, that it was understood and agreed between the then government and the company, that if the latter should, after completion of the road, make arrangements for the discharge of the first mortgage bonds and release the province from liability in respect thereof, the second, or subsidy mortgage, should also be discharged. There did not appear to be any evidence by order-in-council or otherwise of the facts alleged, but the company asserts that it is in a position to prove that such an understanding and agreement was come to. The company is now in a position to discharge the first mortgage bonds and has requested the government in the event of their doing so, to discharge the second mortgage, and the bill he now introduced was to permit the Lieutenant Governor-in-council to comply with this request on being satisfied that the understanding and agreement alleged by the company to have been made by the late government was made. The bill was merely permissive and did not commit the government to any immediate action.

Hon. Mr. Murray brought down the report of W. M. Dunlop on the affairs of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company.

Mr. Dugal. Mr. Dugal said that he was rising to move the adjournment of the House under rule No. 40, in order to refer to a statement that was made on the 20th instant, by the Hon. the Attorney General, when he introduced the prohibition bill. He had not been present on account of having left Fredericton in order to be at his home for Good Friday, but he understood from the official report that the Hon. the Attorney General referred to the opposition convention that was held in St. John in January last and made some references that were entirely contrary to the facts, being reported to have said: "And, Sir, when a certain convention was held in the city of St. John this one of the leaders of that party (referring to the opposition party) one of the commission which leads the party, treated or said that he treated the question of prohibition which ought to be one of the biggest and most vital issues calling for the exercise of all a man's thought and moral responsibility, he treated that, according to his own language, as an article for which he had no personal use and which he kept in stock because it might please some of the people whom he might wish to have support his party."

He (Dugal) was present at that opposition convention and listened to the debate upon the prohibition resolution and he could assure Mr. Speaker this House and the country that no such language was used in that convention by any speaker, that the opinion of the convention was heartily and unanimously in favor of the passing of a resolution, and, if he was not mistaken a committee from the Dominion Alliance was present when that resolution was passed, and could verify the unanimity that was felt by the convention. He was glad to take this opportunity in proving the statement of the At-

torney General as utterly contrary to the facts. He felt that he must use parliamentary language in dealing with this matter and so characterized this in the manner that he had.

"Carterish" Insinuations. But there was another matter to which the Hon. the Attorney General referred, and he must say that he had departed from the usual courteous and parliamentary language which it was customary to employ when he alluded to the request made by the opposition organizer, Mr. E. S. Carter, for Mr. W. B. Chandler to investigate certain facts that were in his possession. He (Dugal) knew at the time that Mr. Carter had been informed that large sums of money collected from brewers, liquor wholesalers and retailers, in the city of St. John for some purpose which he (Dugal) felt that Royal Commissioner Chandler should inquire into. He knew that Mr. Carter had his facts from gentlemen whose word no one in this House could question. He knew that Mr. Carter had followed the movements of certain parties who were here during last session representing interests of liquor dealers. He knew that Mr. Carter had been assured by men prominent in that business that they had paid out large sums of money which Messrs. J. A. Barry and G. Earle Logan had handled, and Mr. Carter, when he had his facts completed, when he had all the information that was necessary to prove his case, asked Royal Commissioner Chandler if he would investigate such facts if laid before him in proper charges.

Mr. Dugal then read a letter dealing with the subject written under date of Fredericton, April 24th, and signed by E. S. Carter, elaborating upon facts contained in the statement just made by him (Dugal) and which also dealt with a libel suit which Mr. Carter had instituted against "The Standard newspaper of St. John."

Hon. J. B. M. Baxter Replies. Hon. Mr. Baxter said that he remembered seeing on the front of a magazine at one time what he believed to have been an advertisement which showed an unfortunate man who had been born without arms and who had only one leg, but who was able to write by holding the pen between his toes and moving the one foot which he had. He could almost see the moving leg and foot, so familiar about this building, writing the missive which had just been read by the hon. gentleman from Madawaska. He could almost see the moving leg writing the affecting story. He had been unable to follow very closely either the misquote which the hon. member had read, or the statement which he made and which preceded the reading of the letter. If, however, he understood it correctly, it was stated that he (Baxter) had named the party who made a certain statement in connection with the prohibition question at the last convention of the opposition party at St. John. If that was the statement which was made in the letter he could state that it was on a par with the rest of the information dispensed by the writer of that document. He (Baxter) had named the person who made the statement to which he referred, but he could have, nor did he say that the statement was made at the opposition convention, so, therefore, it was but natural that his hon. friend should be able to say he had not heard such a statement made there.

The statement was made at another place, which, however, he did not intend to bring into the discussion at this time. The information came to him from a source, and he had much better reasons to believe it to be true than he would have to believe what came from the writer of the letter which the hon. member from Madawaska had just read. Reference had been made to the events of the session of the legislature a year ago and of the activity of the people connected with the liquor traffic.

The Telegraph and Fredericton Mail. These references were similar to those which had been made in the St. John Telegraph and in a series of letters signed "So Long," which appeared in a newspaper published in this city, which was a counter-part of the Telegraph, so far as malignity and inaccuracy of its statements was concerned. However, these articles had consisted almost entirely of insinuations which were so vague in their terms as not to allow the person attacked to have any opportunity for redress. Personally he was indifferent as to what was said about himself. Just as the writer of these articles and the letter which had just been read had been before the public of New Brunswick for almost half a century, so had he, and he thought that without egotism or exaltation of spirit he could easily take the opinion of the people of the province and, yes, of the party opposed to him (Baxter) as between them.

editor had overstepped the mark, but there were certain cases, as when something of a black and white appearance was concerned, when it was necessary to take extraordinary methods and the editor of The Standard had struck out, and had said what he and many other reputable persons believed to be true, as to either the private or public life of the person concerned. He did not believe it was right under ordinary circumstances to refer to the private life of a person in such matters, but when these persons showed absolutely no respect for common decency, then it was that both their private and public life should be referred to.

Reference had been made to the personnel of the jury who had been called for court at which that libel suit was to have been heard. Respecting the jury he could say that it was a much better body of men than might have been expected to be there, had the friends of the old administration still been in charge. There were a number of Liberals on that jury and they were much better Liberals than the writer of the letter which had just been read in this House. If they were not, it would not be saying much for them.

The Standard Libel Suit. Reference had been made to a libel suit which had been instituted against The Standard newspaper, because the person who writes such letters as those signed "So Long," who place before the public such editorials as he had referred to, or who write such missives as the hon. member from Madawaska had just read, were not of a class whose respect counted for much or whose company any decent man would seek.

No Money Paid To Government. In the letter the hon. member for Madawaska had read he understood it to be stated that the allegation had not been made that any of the alleged funds said to have been raised by the liquor dealers a year ago had been paid to the government or to any member of the legislature. If that was the case what was the object of naming the office and associations of the persons referred to with the names of members of the government and of the house, if it was not in the hope that the people of the province would be misled into belief that this government was under the control of the liquor dealers.

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exiev himself, for I was with his staff many times during those critical days and in almost every army engaged in the movement. That it was his skillful hand that engineered the escape of the Russian armies must, I think, be clear to the military observers who watched this same clever mind directing the strategy and tactics which resulted in the escape of the Tenth Russian Army from the beleaguered and all but surrounded Vlna, at a time when the Grand Duke himself had already gone to the Caucasus.—American Review of Reviews.

Berlin, April 27, via wireless to Sarville.—In minor engagements on the Austro-Italian front yesterday ground was gained by the Austrians, the official communication issued today reports.

DIED. CUNNINGHAM—On the 26th inst., William J. Cunningham, leaving his wife, five sons and two daughters to mourn. Funeral on Friday at 2.30 from his late residence, 31 Queen street. Friends invited to attend.

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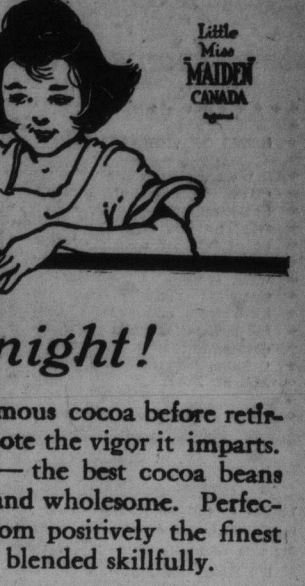
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