

to pass only a partial prohibitory liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitory Bill as the decision will warrant, unless the partial prohibitory power is so limited as to be ineffective from a temperance standpoint.

In the meantime the attention of prohibitionists was much taken up with the inquiry conducted by the Dominion Royal Commission which presented its reports to the Government in 1895, a majority report opposing prohibition and a minority report favoring it. No action was taken by Parliament upon the report. Some Ontario municipalities took action to secure the adoption of Local Option by-laws but generally all were anxiously waiting for the wider Provincial legislation which, it was hoped, the decision of the courts would warrant.

Meantime the questions submitted to the Supreme Court were considered by that body, and a judgment was rendered embodying answers to them.

An appeal was taken from the decision of the Supreme Court to the Privy Council of Great Britain, and the judgment of the latter body was rendered on May 9th, 1896. The decision was lengthy and did not answer categorically all of the questions submitted. It declared the Local Option legislation valid, but there was a difference of opinion among legal men as to whether or not the other answers given, affirmed or denied the right of a Province to pass a general prohibitory law.

After a good deal of delay the Ontario Government, from which Sir Oliver Mowat had retired, decided that the judgment would not warrant general Provincial prohibitory legislation, but the Government took no action or position upon the question of what

legislation would be warranted or promoted.

In 1898 the Dominion Parliament, being again urged to enact prohibition, passed a measure providing for the taking of a general Dominion vote upon the question of whether or not it was desirable to enact a law of total prohibition for the whole country. This plebiscite was fixed for September 29th, 1898, and absorbed the energy and attention of temperance workers. It resulted in a majority of 13,687 for prohibition, the Province of Quebec giving a large majority against prohibition, and all the other Provinces voting for it. After much consideration, and in response to earnest appeals from temperance workers, the Government and Parliament took the position that the vote would not warrant the enactment of a general prohibitory law.

\* Some attention was now directed to the powers conferred upon the electors by the Ontario Local Option Law, which was, however, in a defective form. The matter of submitting by-laws and making them effective was optional with municipal councils, and it was found very difficult to persuade these councils to act. Urgent appeals were made to the Provincial Government for alterations in the law, but no action was taken upon these requests.

In the year 1900 the Manitoba Government and Legislature, taking a view of the Privy Council judgment different from that of the Ontario Government, passed a rigid law of Provincial Prohibition, but suspended the going into operation of the measure until it should be passed upon by the Privy Council. The question of the constitutionality of this law was then submitted to the courts and in November, 1901, the