

PROHIBITION RESOLUTION LIKELY TO GET A MAJORITY IN HOUSE

Despite Attacks in Form of Two Amendments Resolution On Importation Seems To Be Supported in Legislature—Soldier Member Opposes.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

TORONTO, April 21.—Despite attacks from two points, each contained in an amendment, the McCreary resolution asking for a referendum on the importation of liquor seems assured of a majority in the Legislature. A part of the Liberal group is responsible for one of the amendments, which, while recognizing the procedure of a referendum, would defer it until a test case has been taken. The other is from the Conservatives. It is that the Government accept full responsibility. It does not even see the necessity of a referendum, although it approves of the idea of the people, if such were necessary.

"On the surface the resolution and amendments differ only in men's opinions," declared a member of the Liberal party, "but for individual members to voice their feelings on prohibition and temperance reform. Of the House leaders, only Premier Drury has spoken. There is no doubt as to his attitude. He is in favor of the McCreary motion. Five Liberals spoke and indicated that the party is split, as was reported yesterday. Four of them, R. Hall (West Toronto), J. W. Curry (Southwest Toronto), J. A. Calder (North Oxford), and Major J. C. Brown (East London), spoke in favor of the resolution, and said they would vote for it.

L. Brackin (West Kent), the only other Liberal speaker in the debate tonight, moved the amendment, which will be supported by a portion of the Liberal party. That amendment is seconded by a Labor man, K. K. Homuth, of South Waterloo. Labor, too, is split. Wilson Crockett (South Waterloo) favored the resolution and Mr. Homuth and G. G. Halrow (East Hamilton) spoke against it. No Conservatives have spoken in favor of the resolution. There may be one lone member of that group favorable, and he voted against his party on the last division.

"However, the speeches favoring the amendments are making a few converts. The Liberals will support the resolution about a dozen strong. Labor will be about four or five. The remainder of the twelve against. The amendment proposed by Mr. Brackin cannot altogether be called a Liberal amendment. It is seconded by a member of the Labor group. The question arises, will the Labor members oppose to the resolution support Mr. Brackin's amendment or the Conservative one? In neither event does it affect the resolution.

The amendment by Mr. Hill comes exclusively from the Conservative party, for the seconder is Rev. H. C. Buckland, the member for South Wellington.

DRURY TELLS OF PRIVATE BILL

TORONTO, April 21.—Support for H. McCreary's referendum motion was forthcoming from both sides of the House when the resolution was debated this afternoon. The only opposition to the measure voiced during the afternoon came from G. G. Halrow, Labor member for East Hamilton. Three Liberal members pledged themselves to vote for the resolution, as did a number of government supporters.

The feature of the afternoon was Premier Drury's speech in defense of the introduction of a referendum. He gave formal assent to three bills—the amendments to the 1919 housing act, the act respecting the election of dwelling houses, and the amendment to the returned soldiers' and sailors' land settlement act. The two former deal with the Government's housing policy, and the latter empowers the Government to draw money from the northern development fund, to carry out changes at Kapuskasing.

Entered the House. His honor entered the House at 3:15 accompanied by Premier Drury and Col. Alexander Fraser, A.D.C. After he had taken his seat on the throne

the titles of the three bills were read, and his honor gave formal assent to their passing. The bills thus become law, and their provisions may be carried out without further delay.

G. G. Halrow of East Hamilton, in resuming the referendum debate, saw no need for taking a referendum every five or six months.

"The responsibility is ours, and we must face it," he declared. "The majority have no right to ride rough shod over the minority," he argued, "opposing stricter temperance legislation. He favored an individual licensing system, under which every individual would be supplied with a card on which he could obtain liquor from dispensaries. Those abusing the privileges could be deprived of their cards."

Premier Drury, "why we have not made this motion a government measure, but I believe that it is to the advantage of the province, as well as to the members of the House, to secure a fair pronouncement, and it should not, therefore, in any sense be made a party question." (Loud applause from the government members and some members of both Opposition parties.)

Many responsibilities. "The Government has many responsibilities which it cannot and does not care to get away from, such as responsibility for expenditures and policy. But then the private members of the House have certain responsibilities they also cannot get away from."

"We have had governments in the past which have not let the majority of the people decide upon this issue, regardless of party politics, then it is ten times more for the members of the House should be placed in the same position."

"If it had been the general policy of the Government to let the majority of the people decide upon this issue, regardless of party politics, then it is ten times more for the members of the House should be placed in the same position."

"The Government has ever come making the temperance question a party issue? Again can we point to any time when the Government assumed any responsibility for this question. It has been referred to the people on every occasion. The Government has always submitted a bill through private member. The inevitable tendency has been to divorce prohibition from politics."

Favored Prohibition. "Twenty-six years ago, by a majority of 21,789 the people of Ontario voted in favor of prohibition. It was not taken by the party then in power as a mandate for total prohibition legislation. If the bill had been introduced at this session as a Government measure, the members of the Government would have been compelled to line up behind it, regardless of their individual views, and thus we could not have had a full and free expression of opinion. There would have been those in view of their general interest in the maintenance of the Government in power, while others might vote against the measure, merely to embarrass the Government."

"Again, there is a difference of opinion in the ranks of the prohibition forces themselves. Some of them are opposed to submitting a referendum at this time. But I don't think their reasons are sound."

Hon. Mr. Ferguson: "Do I understand that some of them are opposed to prohibition?"

The speaker curtly retorted that he did not consider the question worthy of reply, but reassured the Conservative leader that the difference of opinion was merely on the question of desirable machinery to enforce prohibition.

"I am prepared to admit that minorities have rights; that where the question is a moral one the will of the majority should only be imposed with a great deal of caution. But no one can say that the question of drinking liquor is a moral one. It is a case where the minority would seek to impose its views upon the majority. My view is that it affects very great interests. If free drinking is imposed it would, for instance, very much affect one question in which I am vitally interested—the bringing up of my boy."

(Loud applause from Government and Liberal benches.)

GETTING BIG RECEPTION



GEN. TOWNSHEND, hero of Kut-el-Amara, who arrived recently in New York to commence his tour of the states.

"I believe that no substantial advance can be made until the matter can be dealt with entirely free from political bias," the premier affirmed.

"I am going to vote for this resolution; I believe it is what is needed and the people have a right to pronounce directly upon it by referendum."

"Will anyone say definitely that because the people voted two to one for the enforcement of the Ontario temperance act last October they meant that importation of liquor should be prohibited? Personally I believe they did mean that, but if we go beyond the definite power of that referendum we will find strong opposition. If we are to deal with the question finally, wisely and well, we must submit it again to the people." Here Hon. Thomas Crawford intervened.

Defined Measure. "The premier and his people have defined this measure," Hon. Mr. Crawford observed. "Apparently it is a Government measure, and we will have to act accordingly."

"Good," exclaimed Hon. W. E. Raney.

Premier Drury expressed doubt as to the meaning of Mr. Crawford's words. "Perhaps they mean he is going to play politics with the measure," he suggested.

"No, you're doing that," put in an Opposition member.

"If so, my honorable friend from Northwest Toronto will have to take his own responsibility," the premier resumed. He explained that the Government had obtained legal opinions upon the temperance question. It had been argued, he admitted, that the Dominion act would not apply to Ontario, because complete prohibition was not in force in this province. Members of the Dominion Government, he stated, had given opinions to the contrary, however, and there was no reason to doubt that if a referendum carried the Dominion act would come into force in Ontario.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson arose to inquire whether the Government would receive any opinions which stated that the province could not, of its own accord, enact home dry prohibition.

There is such opinion. "I am informed there is such an opinion," Mr. Drury admitted.

"Under the Doherty act the possession of liquor could be prohibited," added Mr. Raney.

"I'm not talking about the Doherty act," Mr. Drury persisted.

"Well, I am," the attorney-general shot back tartly.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson urged that the opinions received by the Government be laid before the House. He recalled that he had already asked that this be done.

"The work of preparing copies has just been finished this afternoon," Hon. Mr. Raney stated.

"I would like to know of any favor of legislation which would involve searching of homes or promote a system inflicting."

R. R. Hall, Liberal member for Parry Sound, favored the referendum.

"I would like to know of any favor of legislation which would involve searching of homes or promote a system inflicting."

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J. A. Calder, Liberal member for North Oxford.

It would be a shame if we did not give the people of Ontario an opportunity of deciding this question," declared Major the Rev. J. C. Tolmie of Windsor. "I come from a riding which was not particularly dry, but I am going to follow the fate of my constituents and let the future take care of itself. I am going to vote for the resolution."

Proportional Representation. A special committee of the House will be appointed to consider a bill introduced by H. P. Hill, Conservative member for West Ottawa, which would establish proportional representation in Ontario. Mr. Hill spoke in support of the measure, tracing the adoption of the principle of proportional representation in other countries and submitting figures to show the weakness of the present electoral system. Mr. Hill agreed not to press his bill this session, but asked that a committee be appointed to report upon it next year.

Premier Drury declared himself in accord with the principle of proportional representation and acquiesced in Mr. Hill's suggestion. H. H. Dewar also approved the principle and emphasized the need for increased representation for urban municipalities. In this Hon. G. H. Ferguson concurred.

The question of additional representation for urban municipalities is entirely different from that of proportional representation," Premier Drury demurred. He expressed the opinion that the unit of representation should not be the same for rural and urban districts. The committee to be appointed, Mr. Drury promised, would not consider the measure, but would consider it carefully upon its merits.

"We are not opposed to the principle of a referendum," Mr. Brackin explained. "but we want to be sure that if the people of Ontario vote against importation of liquor that they give them a gold brick."

Mr. Brackin dealt humorously with the Government's attitude on the referendum. He contended that the prime minister, he declared, for leaving the measure to a private member, "no one can blame him for playing a little politics," he went on. "I have no doubt we would do the same thing ourselves if we were in power. God forbid, in view of what the temperance forces did to the Ross Government and to the House of Commons, that we should run a similar risk."

"We are asked tonight to accept the viewpoint of the referendum committee rather than that of the Dominion Alliance," he declared. A vote to Rev. Ben Spence was greeted with smiles from the Government benches.

As Willing Captives. "The honorable gentleman laugh," exclaimed the member for West Kent. "I can remember when they followed as willing captives at his chariot wheels only a few months ago."

Mr. Brackin referred to the legal opinions which had been obtained as "willing captives" at his chariot wheels only a few months ago.

"If so, my honorable friend, the attorney-general, laughs," he observed. "There are some members of the legislature who do not like to expedite anything. But I am pleased to see that the attorney-general can smile. I have thought that he had been so long connected with those things that are supposed to drive away mirth that he could no longer smile."

Curry Favors It. J. W. Curry, Liberal member for Southwest Toronto, declared himself in favor of the referendum. He advocated milder penalties for ordinary breaches of the Ontario temperance act, but heavier punishment for those who furnished liquor illegally.

Wilson Crockett, Labor member for South Westwindsor; J. W. Widdfield, U. F. O. member for North Ontario, and R. M. Warren, U. F. O. member for North Renfrew, also approved the resolution.

Karl Homuth of South Waterloo, seconder of R. L. Brackin's amendment, advocated a system of rationing liquor to the public in small quantities.

"Something must be done that can be recorded as a government measure," he contended, attributing many of the evils of the liquor traffic to government mismanagement.

Protected Liberties. Sergeant-Major McCormack of Riverside took a definite stand against prohibiting the importation of liquor. He stated that as a result of his physical service he suffered from reduced blood pressure and was advised by his physician to use a quantity of stout daily.

"I protected your liberties over there," he exclaimed. "Are you going to deny me the liberty of obtaining this beverage, which is necessary to the sustenance of my health?"

The present system, he continued, tended to make profiteers of the doctors of Ontario.

"If you are attempting to make the country absolutely bone dry, you are doing one of the worst things that can be done," he declared. "The Government has a million dollars to spend on a referendum, it should be honorable enough to devote the money to re-establishment of the returned soldiers."

Charles McCrea, Conservative member for Sudbury, doubted the advisability of enacting more advanced temperance legislation than that now in force, warning against the dangers of a possible reaction.

M. M. MacBride, labor member for South Brant, moved the adjournment of the debate.



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NAME REPRESENTATIVE TO FINANCE CONFAB
OTTAWA, April 21.—The Government is considering who to send to the international finance conference on May 25 next in Brussels, and announcement of its choice of Canadian representative is expected tomorrow. Sir George Foster informed Hon. H. S. Bland.

Canada's only representative at the San Remo conference, Sir George stated in answer to Mr. Cannon.

Had Eczema FOR OVER 28 YEARS.

Eczema or Salt Rheum manifests itself in little round blisters, which contain an extremely irritating fluid. These break and subsequently a crust is formed, and the intense burning, itching and smarting, especially at night, when the part is exposed to any strong heat is almost unbearable.

POLICE MAY WEAR OVERALLS; PRICE OF UNIFORMS TOO HIGH
Chatham Commissioners Seriously Discuss Proposition and Indorse Clothing Boycott.

CHATHAM, April 21.—Overalls as the summer garb of the local police force may be the decision of the Chatham Police Commission. After opening tender for two-piece suits at a meeting this morning the commissioners expressed the opinion that it is time the people joined in the campaign against the high cost of clothing.

The prices quoted for the summer suits for the policemen ranged from \$24 to \$100. The more conservative members of the commission, however, discussed the matter, the more did the overall scheme appeal to them, with the result that no purchase was authorized, and the matter was laid over for a week. In the meantime inquiries will be conducted to the feasibility of creating a policeman's uniform in overall material.

Magistrate Arnold challenged the chairman, Judge Stainforth, to wear a suit of overalls. The judge replied that he was prepared to dig out several old suits from his wardrobe.

Mayor Brisco stated that at the meeting of the city council on Monday next he would ask the aldermen to start wearing overalls.

The commissioners were agreed that the principle of the campaign is right. "Can we afford to buy \$100 suits for the policemen when we are going to wear overalls ourselves?" asked Mayor Brisco, before moving that the matter be laid over.

DELAY IN ISSUE OF STANDARD LICENSES

Incorporation of Amendments to Regulations Given as Cause.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The possibility of several months' delay in the settlement of the wage demands of the 2,000,000 United States railroad workers developed today during discussions between representatives of the roads and brotherhoods before the railroad labor board, when hearings on the demands were resumed.

DIVORCE BILL GETS ITS SECOND READING

OTTAWA, April 21.—(By Canadian Press.)—By a majority of 43 to 14, the divorce proceedings in provincial courts will be brought into uniformity in the second reading of a bill increasing the Government's annuity to the city of Ottawa and some discussion on electrification of government lines in Ontario, composed the afternoon's work.

BRITISH IGNORANT OF PLOT INVESTIGATION

NEW YORK, April 21.—Representatives of the British Government, professing ignorance of any investigation of reports that a plot was being hatched in New York to foment simultaneous uprisings in various British dependencies.

HAD BOTH ARMS BROKEN; AGED LADY BADLY HURT

INGERSOLL, April 21.—Thrown from a buggy on Sunday when the horse took fright at an automobile, Mrs. John Menzer of West Oxford sustained serious injuries. Both arms were broken, the right at the wrist and the left above the elbow, and 40 shares were broken up. Her condition is serious, owing to the fact that she is 82 years of age.

RETURNED FROM CHINA

Accompanied by his wife and daughter, R. H. Newton has arrived here after spending two years in a mission field in China. He is son of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Newton, formerly of Sudbury, and went to China under the auspices of the Canadian Methodist Church.

FIRE IN ELM TREE

Fire in a tall elm tree on the farm of Alex Alexander was an unusual spectacle witnessed in North Oxford this morning. The fire was caused by lightning striking the night before. It was finally extinguished, as the tree is valued for the shade it affords stock.

W. C. T. U. CONVENTION

LONDON, April 21.—The tenth triennial convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union is being held today in Central Hall, under the presidency of the Countess of Carlisle, its president.

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