

THE PRESENT BILL NOT PROHIBITION

From the Toronto Globe, January 22, 1902.

"As a matter of fact the Manitoba Liquor Act, which it is proposed to adopt in Ontario, is not prohibition, nor anything like prohibition. It could be more properly termed an Act to prohibit the retail sale of liquors in hotels. It permits the uninterrupted manufacture of liquor in the province and its wholesale distribution throughout the homes of the province by agents of the liquor interest living in Ontario. The bill, in fact, is a strictly limited measure of provincial option, and must necessarily be much more difficult of enforcement than a measure absolutely prohibiting manufacture and sale throughout the province."

From the Toronto Globe, January 12, 1902:

"It is a misnomer to call it a prohibition law, unless that phase could be applied to all of the legislation intended to restrict the liquor traffic."

"Roughly stated, the Act prohibits the wholesale or retail sale of liquor within the province as a beverage. The bar, and the club as a drinking place are both in effect declared illegal, and every man who deplores the evils wrought by intemperance would hail this gladly if there were more confidence that something equally as bad did not take its place."

"The Act expressly recognizes the legality of keeping liquor in private dwellings and the legality of obtaining such liquor from points outside the province. Any resident of Manitoba could have his cellar stocked with all the intoxicants known to the trade and be strictly within the law. The only restriction is that he must not sell any of them. The liquor dealer outside the province could legally send in all the liquor for which he could find purchasers."

INTERVIEW WITH MR. J. W. FLAVELLE

From the Toronto Mail and Empire, March 11, 1902:

"I give unequivocal support to Mr. Whitney in the position he has taken that the remedy applicable to the present situation is a further restriction of licenses, and the fearless administration of the law. I believe his position to be honest, sane, and deserving of the support of the country at large."

"So spoke Mr. J. W. Flavelle last night, when asked by The Mail and Empire for his opinion on the Ross Liquor Bill, and the stand taken on the question by the leader of the Opposition. Mr. Flavelle's munificence in the cause of religious education, his unswerving loyalty to the Methodist Church, his identification with the temperance movement, and his integrity in business, have made him one of the foremost men in the province, and his views carry unusual weight."

"Mr. Flavelle said:--

"I have been, and I always will be, identified with those who are desirous of removing in every way possible the evils attendant upon the sale of spirituous liquors. I think, however, there is a danger of men who think strongly upon this question failing to appreciate the great body of well-balanced sentiment in the community which is opposed to prohibitory legislation as the remedy for these evils. Nor do I think that ardent friends of prohibition realize the lamentable absence of conscience on the part of Governments, Liberal and Conservatives, to fearlessly enforce a prohibitory law, or that they measure the number in their own circle who are without sensitive conscience upon the enforcement of the penalties for the violation of law, when enforcement interferes with or imperils party success."

"I cannot overlook in this connection the remarkable absence of public protest from men, irrespective of party, covering gross irregularities and flagrant abuses of the ballot in connection with recent election scandals. Therefore, in considering whether prohibitory legislation is practicable at this time as a remedy for the evils attendant upon the liquor traffic, I am bound to say that I do not believe it is practicable, and that this absence of conscience on the part of politicians, whether they are leaders or only in the rank and file of either of the great parties, renders it impossible to enforce with any fair degree of success such legislation, particularly when there is such an influential body of sentiment against it."

"I give unequivocal support to Mr. Whitney in the position he has taken that the remedy applicable to the present situation is a further restriction of licenses and the fearless administration of the law. I believe his position to be honest, sane, and deserving of the support of the country at large, and whether the outspoken declaration of his views makes or loses him votes in the coming contest, I am glad to know that we have in public life as a leader of one of the great parties in this province a man who is not afraid to state his honest convictions without hedging upon an important measure."