

**PROHIBITION OF THE IMPORTATION,  
MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF  
INTOXICATING LIQUORS.**

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 121) intituled "An Act respecting the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors."

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I am very glad, Mr. Speaker, to give an explanation of the purport of the Bill, although no doubt, in a general way, the House thoroughly understands its object. It is, however, a Bill which has been looked for with some expectancy and with a little impatience on the part of a very large number of people in the country, and it is well a short resume of the provisions of the Bill should be placed before the House before asking for the discussion which will naturally arise upon the second reading. I may say, Sir, that at the present stage of the proceedings there is no desire at all to argue the question in any way or shape; I shall, therefore, confine myself to a short explanation of the clauses of the Bill and the object aimed at.

The Bill is a short one, as simple as it could possibly be made to reach the object desired. It contains first of all the title, the interpretation clause, and in the third clause there comes the question to be submitted under the Act, based on this Bill, to the people of Canada. We are all aware that this question has been the point in the Bill which has been most commented upon and most discussed by the people who are interested in this measure. I am very gratified indeed to be able to say here and at once, that the question as contained in this Bill will, I think, meet fully the approbation of those who have been interested in the submission of this question of prohibition to the people of Canada. I will read the question. The section of the Bill reads thus:

There shall be submitted to the vote of the electors hereinafter declared entitled to vote thereon, the following question:—

"Are you in favour of the passing of an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale of spirits, wine, ale, beer, cider and all other alcoholic liquors for use as beverages?"

**Mr. FOSTER.** Manufacture "or" sale?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. Manufacture or sale. The "importation, manufacture or sale." This, I think, Mr. Speaker, is as simple a question as could be framed to ask the opinion of the people upon. It is largely framed upon the lines of the prohibition resolutions which have been on various occasions submitted to this House of Commons, and it is, I believe, a thoroughly satisfactory form of question on

which to ask the vote of the people of Canada.

The fourth clause provides, that the Governor in Council shall by proclamation name a day on which the vote shall take place in the country.

The proclamation shall be published in at least three successive issues of the "Canada Gazette" and of the "Official Gazette" of each province.

This follows practically the lines of proclamations for a general election, and I may say here that the whole tenor of this Bill is to adapt to the purpose for which the Bill is introduced, the election law of the Dominion of Canada.

The provision as to who may vote, provides that everybody who is entitled to vote for the election of a member to the House of Commons under the Franchise Act as now before the House of Commons, shall be entitled to vote in the plebiscite.

**Mr. MACLEAN.** Cannot the women vote on it?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. Those who are entitled to vote for a member of the House of Commons, without any change as to personnel or as to qualification.

Clause 6 provides for the application of the Dominion Election Act and the Franchise Act to the vote to be taken under this Act. This clause takes in every provision of those Acts, providing thereby not only for the franchise—that is to say, those who are entitled to vote—not only for the manner in which the vote shall be taken, but also providing for the machinery and providing the necessary provisions to enforce law and order, and such penalties as may be incurred by contravention of the Franchise Act or the Election Act. I think, that the clause is complete in this respect, and that it provides in the simplest and plainest form for everything that is necessary.

Clause 7 provides for regulations:

That the Governor in Council may from time to time, for the purposes of this Act, make and give all such regulations, orders and instructions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as are in his judgment necessary or expedient for the effectual carrying out of such purposes, and to the adapting of such purposes, of the Dominion Elections Act and the North-west Territories Representation Act and their amendments, and the Franchise Act of 1898.

Clause 8 provides for the ballot paper, and the ballot paper as proposed contains simply the question which I have read, and beyond to the right hand of the question, are two columns, one under the word "yes" and one under the word "no." These columns contain the space on which the cross shall be made. Those who wish to vote "yea," affirmative on the question of prohibition, will place their cross under the word "yes"; those who wish to vote "no" or negatively on the question of prohibition, will place their cross under the word "no." Hon. gen-