

LOCAL OPTION PROTEST MADE

VICTORIA BRANCH'S VIEWS ON NEW LAW

Attorney-General is Advised as to Weakness of the Measure

(From Friday's Daily.)

Yesterday afternoon on behalf of the local option committee of Victoria a letter was sent to Hon. W. J. Bowser as the father of the amendments to the Liquor Act. The letter is self explanatory and reads as follows:

The Hon. W. J. Bowser,
Attorney-General:

We protest with all emphasis against this bill being considered in any way as an answer to the demand of the electors of this province for a local option law. The plebiscite recently held was not asked for by the temperance people, but was taken by the government by its own volition. The conditions under which this vote was taken were in many instances such that in some places an insufficient number of local option ballots were supplied, in one case at least no ballots whatever were provided, in many instances,

Six Natives Are Killed in Skirmish With Advance Guard

were placed in charge of men engaged in the liquor business; in others, as for instance, in Vancouver, no scrutineers were permitted. In many instances there was not an honest and impartial count of the ballots actually cast, which is clearly shown by the fact that a recount of even the so-called spoiled ballots by an impartial government official gave a gain of over 400 votes in favor of local option. The unsatisfactory method of taking this vote is further shown by the fact that some

months elapsed between the taking of the votes and the announcement of the result.

Nevertheless, in spite of all these adverse influences, over twenty-two thousand electors of the province, by a popular majority of nearly four thousand,

have demanded the enactment of a local option law. This demand is just and reasonable. It asks that the different municipalities of the province be given the right to regulate their own local affairs according to the wish of the majority—a right that was granted to every county in the Dominion.

tion over thirty years ago, by the parliament of Canada. This surely is the right of every community of free-born citizens enjoying self-government. In fourteen constituencies the handicap imposed by the government, unjust and unreasonable as it seems to us, was fully met. Under a local option law these fourteen constituencies, with others, might, if a majority had wished, rid themselves from the onerous

open licensed bars. To refuse these places this right because certain other places failed to meet your requirements seems to us most unjust, while to enact legislation in answer to their demand, which simply shuts up these bars on Sunday and one hour earlier at night, and which protects "prostitutes," "drunkards" and "dissolute persons" from the evil effects of these licensed bars, where a majority of the people do not want bars at all, is certainly not calculated to satisfy the wishes of an intelligent people. We submit that

It is "not prostitutes" or "drunkards" whom we wish first to save, as the lives of these have already been wrecked by liquor. Our first thought is for the young, the pure and the innocent whom we wish to save from the temptation of the licensed bar-rooms, as it is from the ranks of these that the "prostitutes" and "drunkards" are recruited.

We, therefore, acting on behalf of the Local Option League of the city of Victoria, beg leave to protest against the passage of this new liquor license

act as in any way meeting the demand for a local option law, and we take the liberty of informing you that we shall continue the fight for complete local control of the liquor traffic either by means of federal or provincial legislation, until this has been fully secured.

Signed in behalf of the Local Option committee of Victoria.

W. A. GLEASON,
President.

WILLIAM STEVENSON,
Secretary.

Victoria, February 17, 1910.

EX-PRESIDENT ZELAYA
NOW IN LEGAL FIGHT

San Francisco Men Seek to
Recover \$25,000 From
Nicaraguan

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 18.—
Through the United States court at

New Orleans several local capitalists and club men to-day are endeavoring to obtain possession of the ex-President Zelaya's estate. The ex-President Zelaya of Nicaragua recently passed in a New Orleans bank. The San Franciscans allege that they deposited \$25,000 with Zelaya in order to hold an option on a railway concession in Nicaragua. The money, they claim, was deposited with Zelaya, but Zelaya, they claim, declined to confirm the concession or return the money.

They seek to compel Zelaya either to procure for them the concession or to return the money.

The plaintiffs sent Stewart M. Bryce, son of the late Senator Calvin S. Bryce, to Nicaragua shortly before the retirement of Zelaya, but Bryce was unable to obtain the concession. Legal action was the result.

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The Hon. W. J. Bowser,
Attorney-General:
Sir,—The undersigned committee of
the Local Option League of Victoria,
and acting for and in behalf of that
body, hereby beg leave to offer the fol-
lowing observations concerning the new
liquor license act now before the legis-

We protest with all emphasis against this bill being considered in any way as an answer to the demand of the electors of this province for a local option law. The plebiscite recently held was not asked for by the temperance people, but was taken by the government by its own volition. The conditions under which this vote was taken

were in many instances unjust. In some places an insufficient number of local option ballots were supplied, in one case at least no ballots whatever were provided, in many instances, notably in Victoria, the ballot boxes were placed in charge of men engaged in the liquor business; in others, as for instance, in Vancouver, no scrutineers were permitted. In many instances there was not an honest and impartial count of the ballots actually cast.

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We, therefore, acting on behalf of the

Local Option League of the city of Victoria, beg leave to protest against the passage of this new liquor license act as in any way meeting the demand for a local option law, and we take the liberty of informing you that we shall continue the fight for complete local control of the liquor traffic either by means of federal or provincial legis-

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