

**Reply to the Statement Given Out by Mr. Flavelle to the
Newspapers, Following Further Interviews
Given by Mr. Dewart in Ottawa.**

Ottawa, Oct. 10th, 1919.

While passing through Ottawa from the meetings at Pembroke and Almonte yesterday, on the way to Picton, where he was to speak to-night, Mr. Hartley Dewart, the Liberal Leader, when asked with reference to the statement of License Commissioner Flavelle which appeared in the Ottawa morning papers, said:—

Section 6 (a) of the Ontario Temperance Act provided for the appointment by the License Commissioners of vendors for the purpose of importing into the Province, amongst other liquors (a) "wine for use in divine service."

1. It is contrary to any fair interpretation of the law that the importation of wine to be used at the evening meal over which a blessing is said, could be so stretched as to be considered "wine" used in divine service.

2. If this is a fair interpretation of the law, why was this application never thought of until the week before a general election? The same conditions existed in 1916, 1917 and in 1918 but no one has suggested such a special dispensation. The most important Jewish Holy Days are their New Year's Day, which occurred this year on September 25th, and The Feast of the Atonement, two weeks ago. No order was passed to cover the days of these religious ceremonies, yet this order was passed for the Kiddush, a prayer by which the holiness of the festival is proclaimed at the evening meal, and which it is expressly set out, may be performed without the use of liquors.

3. By no special ruling can the wholesale importation of liquor, equal to proof spirits of 62.84 per cent. be justified.

4. If this was a proper thing to do, why was Barnet Stone, the Jewish Tory organizer and leading garment contractor for the Ottawa Tory Government in Toronto, appointed as special vendor in Toronto?

5. At the last session of 1919 the investigation into the abuses of the administration of the Act as to one of the vendor's stores in the City of Toronto, showed that the liquors seized from bootleggers had been sold to that vendor, that he doctored it, brought it up to strength and resold it at an advanced price, upon medical prescriptions to the afflicted public during the "flu" epidemic. It was this revelation more than anything else that forced the