

and a class of unlicensed liquor sellers—worked hard at elections to get in municipal officials who would grant them licenses—or shield them in selling without. Now, the Ottawa Government, by the mouth of Mr. Meredith, distinctly declare their intention to bring back all the old evils upon us. Here is what he said lately at St. Thomas :—"What we propose to do is to give back to the municipalities the rights of which they have been deprived, to give them the control of the liquor traffic, and the right to say who shall receive licenses, and to whom shall be entrusted the power of carrying on the trade."

THE STREAMS ACT.

The Dominion Government possesses a veto. By law, it had the power to disallow the above Act; but to do so was the most deliberate act of tyranny—of determined partyism—ever attempted in Canada.

A rich lumberman—an influential Conservative—had improved a stream to float logs down. Above him another owned logs—cut on Crown Lands, under licenses for which he had paid—he wished to float down, but could not, of course, without using the improvements below. He offered to pay for the use of these, but the owner refused. The timber of the man above was worthless if he could not get it out; and he applied to the Ontario Government. They, not for his sake alone, but for that of the dwellers on a couple of hundred other rivers here, passed an Act giving them a right to use such improvements on giving fair compensation. What else could they do? To do otherwise would be to deed all the timber of Ontario to the men at the mouths of the streams. But the rich lumberman ran to Ottawa, interviewed the Minister of Justice, who came from another Province, and knew nothing of our local needs, got him to recommend the disallowance of the Act, and it was disallowed accordingly.

If we submit to such actions there will be no limit to their commission, and we may see, presently, numerous other Acts of Ontario disallowed. In the meantime, the first thing to place Ontario in a position to act in the matter is to return the Mowat Government.

The chief excuse made for disallowing the Bill was that it interfered with private rights. Private rights! How it interfered was in this way—it interfered, as all legislation necessarily does, with what one man considered his private right to wrong another. As for the other objections, they are mere legal quibbles.