

who had no ends to serve but an impartial administration of the law, that no course was left to them but to resign and to place the responsibility for their action upon the Government.

"It is with no ordinary sense of regret they are compelled to say the whole episode is at complete variance with the spirit of the Premier's and the Provincial Secretary's statements, when as Commissioners they were asked to take office. The course followed seems to have been designed by men inflamed with passion for office or for dispensing patronage, who determined to get rid of Commissioners who refused to play the part of hired men subject to the dictation of party followers. The Government by their action have approved of this course, hence the usefulness of the present Commissioners is at an end. They accepted at full value the statements made by the Premier and his responsible Minister, the Provincial Secretary, that they desired an honest, non-partisan enforcement of the License Act, and as no other administration would be possible while the office was held by the present board, they step aside to permit the Government to secure a board in accordance with their present policy.

"(Signed) J. W. FLAVELLE.

"(Signed) JOHN I. DAVIDSON.

"(Signed) J. P. MURRAY."

The Commissioners appointed to succeed Messrs. Flavelle, Davidson and Murray were made the subject of efforts to influence the administration of the License Law for party purposes. So much was this the case, that an investigation was demanded and a special commission appointed. In the evidence before this Commission it was shown that the Hon. Dr. Pyne, the Minister of Education, had personally intervened in the endeavor to get the Board to grant a license to an applicant who had a record of fourteen Police Court convictions against him. The public can judge whether this is removing the administration of the liquor law from politics, and also whether, before proposing such a scheme, it was not necessary to get rid of Chief Inspector Hastings, whom the former board found to be "efficient, honest, fearless and non-partisan."

On March 1st, 1906, the "Toronto Evening News" commented as follows on this condition of affairs:

"The Government made a surrender to the baser element of the party, and, because of it, will certainly lose prestige among the fair-minded, careful thinkers of the Province. From a Premier, who has harped so much on British fair play, this pitiless and cynical rule of unfair discrimination comes with bad grace."