

"The License Act, irrespective of whether the liquor or temperance people will be pleased or not, will be enforced. We expect to find defects in the law, but we will remedy these defects to the best of our ability, and whatever law the people place on the statute books will be enforced, and we will not for a moment allow ourselves to be dragooned in any way." Applause.

Again, in the House, as reported on 19th April, 1907, Mr. Whitney said:—

"I believe it to be the duty of every good man to do all in his power to minimize the effects of the drink evil in the province. I have stood by this and would do so again, even if the extreme temperance man and liquor man hunted in couples, as at the last election."

## Has The Law Been Enforced?

Mr. Whitney's attitude on this question, as leader of the Opposition, left no room for doubt or misunderstanding as to where he stood. The electors took him at his word and elected him to office with an emphatic mandate to carry out his pledge. Has he done so?

As Premier of this great province, he assigned to me the important duty of administering the Liquor License Law. I could have no doubt as to the nature of the trust imposed upon me. I came to my duties determined to carry out the pledges so repeatedly given. Our first effort was to select as Liquor License Commissioners men who could command at once the respect and confidence of the community. In the great majority of cases we have succeeded in doing so. We adopted a like course in our appointments of inspectors where changes were made, and we at once by circular notified the commissioners and inspectors alike as to the policy of the Government with regard to the enforcement of the law, and asked them to see to it that the licensees of the province "kept hotel."

We spared no pains to impress upon the commissioners and inspectors alike that the law should be properly enforced. Have we succeeded in securing proper enforcement? It has fortunately not been left for me to answer that question. We ask the liquor license holders, and they answer "Yes." We ask the temperance people, and they answer "Yes." We need not stop here. We go to the columns of the temperance press, and we find there repeated expressions of gratitude to the Government for their honest effort to enforce the law. We find like expressions in the resolutions of the conferences and meetings of the different churches of the province. We find the same answer as well in letters, not by the score, but by the hundred, that have reached the department from all classes, commending the government for its earnest enforcement of the law. It is true that this condition, while very general, may not be without exceptions, but I can assure the electors of the province that where this is not the condition locally, it is not for lack of effort on the part of the Government.

## As to The Special Officers

But I hear some one say: "As to all this I am agreed, but I do not like your methods. Why do you employ men specially charged with the collecting of evidence?" The facts are that early in the administration of this law, we found that notwithstanding the efforts of those locally responsible, the law was at times being violated. Complaints would reach the Department from responsible sources; each complaint would be sent back to the License Commissioners and Inspector of the district from which it came. From the Inspector we would receive the report—"I have investig-