

terial luminaries in the district to do will be to accept the licenses to be issued by the Manitoban Government as authority for sale, and let prosecutions take place under any or all of the other acts against those selling without a license."

Shortly before the above article appeared in the *Times*, the following account of an interview with the Hon. Mr. Norquay was printed in the *Winnipeg Sun* :—

"Is it true that the Government has decided to issue licenses at Rat Portage?"

"It is not—not yet, anyhow."

"How is that?" was the next query.

"Well, I'll tell you. We have the matter under consideration, but the truth is, that we are not quite sure as to our right to issue licenses there. You see that part of the world is disputed territory, and we want to consider the matter well before doing anything."

"Do you suppose it will be brought into effect there?" persisted the *Sun* representative.

"Well, I suppose it would be much better if the law was extended to Rat Portage. According to all accounts there is a great deal of illicit liquor traffic going on there. However, it is just as I say, we are in a quandary how to act for the present."

Nevertheless, the Manitoba Government had previously established a Court, granted a Charter of Incorporation for a Municipal Council, and decided upon appointing a Registrar in the disputed territory.

The immediate result of the issue of a license was a diminution of one-half in the price of liquor in the licensed, and the closing of one or two of the unlicensed houses. The Police Commissioner who had, as before stated, been carrying out the Keewatin Prohibitory Act, was not advised by the Department of Justice at Ottawa of the intended action of Manitoba regarding the issue of licenses, and proceeded as though no such license existed. On the information of his constables, he convicted the bartender of the licensed hotel for selling and having liquor in his possession, inflicted a heavy fine under the Prohibitory Act, and ordered the destruction of the liquor, notwithstanding the Manitoba license. The hotel-keeper, being desirous of testing the Magistrate's authority, declined to pay the bartender's fine, and the latter was committed to Winnipeg jail. On the evening of his arrival, however, he was brought before the City Police Magistrate and released on bail, at the instance of Attorney-General Sutherland, with the understanding that a motion to quash the conviction would be made before Judge Miller in the following week. No such motion has yet been made, however, and it is doubtful whether one will be made.

As illustrative of the opinion largely prevailing in Winnipeg regarding the position assumed by the Manitoba Government in the disputed territory, the following further extract from the *Winnipeg Times* may be regarded as suggestive, considering the relations of that journal to both the Federal and Manitoba Governments :—

"It is by no means certain that the position of the Provincial Government with reference to the Rat Portage liquor question is an impregnable one.

"In the first place, did they not act *ultra vires* in granting licenses in Rat Portage? The Ontario Government claims that Rat Portage is in that Province; in other words, the town is in the disputed territory. It is true, Rat Portage sought and obtained an Act of Incorporation from the Manitoba Legislature, and that incorporation carries with it the Provincial license system. But it is not clear that this Legislature has the right to incorporate a town within the disputed territory on the strength of the town's asking for it.

"Secondly, has the North-west Territories' Act actually been repealed at Rat Portage? The Local Government assumes to repeal it by Order-in-Council, under the