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OTTAWA, June 21—(CP)—Considerable progress has been made in preparing the Progressive Conservative restatement of policy, due Aug. 1, party headquarters said today.

A special committee met during the week-end to consider the resolutions passed at the party's annual meeting last April and "the basic principles of the party's policies," a statement said.

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### PREMIER JONES

Continued from page 5

now more than 20,000 people who hold books to buy liquor, all these people are not Prohibitionists. They could compare them with the 11,000 who once voted for Prohibition and declare the liquor-drinkers are in the greater majority.

So everybody should turn out to vote. It is a real showdown. The day is Monday next. The hours are from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

There are provisions in the Temperance Act that will induce more temperance than ever was achieved before. No one is permitted to furnish alcohol to anyone under twenty-one years of age, and the penalty—the least penalty provided—is thirty days in jail.

### Jail Sentences

Also liquor books can be readily taken from a permit holder who becomes drunk, or spends money he cannot afford, and anyone furnishing him or her with liquor, even giving them a drink, will receive at the least thirty days in jail. No fines are permitted. It is strict and will be enforced, and here is where the clergy could help by cleaning up in their own parishes or communities. The Temperance Act furnishes them the means. It is squarely up to them as leaders in morality.

A considerable improvement is a provision that in any building in which a store is located, the whole premises is treated as a store and not a private dwelling.

There are many such excellent provisions, and temperate-minded people should see the new act tried out.

The times have changed since the Prohibition Acts have come into being. Fifty years ago in the district in which I was reared, there were fewer liquor drinkers than there are now teetotalers. We had Temperance education in those days until some enthusiasts wanted a Prohibition law. They wanted to make teetotalism mandatory, and passed a Prohibition Act. Then the trouble began, and it has been deteriorating ever since.

To summarize, there is no secret about the issue in this Plebiscite. Next Monday everyone qualified to vote for Assemblyman at a Provincial Election will go to the polls and vote for one of two things: (1) The New Temperance Act, or (2) The Old Prohibition Act.

Statements have been made that the issue is confusing; there is nothing confusing about it. The fundamental distinction between the Old Act and the new Act is the substitution of a permit system in the latter for the doctor's prescription in the former. The script would cost the public possibly \$100,000 and would give all kinds of trouble to hard-worked doctors. Insofar as this Plebiscite is concerned, whichever way the people decide, liquor will still be handled

by the Temperance Commission. This is a Plebiscite to determine which method of purchase the people prefer. It is to determine whether the liquor to be handled by the public by doctor's prescription or under a permit system.

Before voting, you will require to examine the respective merits of each system. You will require to ask yourselves under which system the cause of true Temperance may better be promoted. For I am satisfied that we in Prince Edward Island desire to be and to remain a temperate people.

### Public Opinion

There are those among us who hold that by total abstinence, and by total abstinence alone, can true Temperance be attained. It is questionable if this view is shared by a majority of our people. And it is still more doubtful if our past or present Prohibition Acts have succeeded in making our Province teetotal.

The Cullen Amendment (so-called) is not a factor nor is it an issue in the forthcoming Plebiscite. That is to say, whether you vote for the New Temperance Act or for the Old Prohibition Act, you are not voting on the question of whether or not doctors may write prescriptions good for six months; if you vote for the Prohibition Act you are voting for a return to the former system whereby a separate doctor's prescription is required for each and every purchase.

This Cullen Amendment might in fact be called a modified permit system in itself. After it became law, the Government endeavoured, in all sincerity, to test its usefulness and effectiveness. And, as a modified permit system, the results have not been entirely satisfactory. The change in the Temperance Act will greatly help in enforcement.

But there has been improvement in law enforcement. In the annual report of the Charlottetown City Police Courts for 1947, signed by Major W. A. Smith, the Clerk of that Court, and dated December 31, 1947, we find the following: "One thousand and ninety cases were heard and disposed of, showing a decrease of four hundred and forty-two compared with the year 1946."

And at the present regular sittings of the Supreme Court at Charlottetown, the Chief Justice, in his address to the Grand Jury, told that body that this was the thirty consecutive regular jury sitting of the Supreme Court in Prince Edward Island, at which the Sheriff had presented white gloves to the presiding Judge. As you all know, these white gloves are a symbol of the absence of crime. An enviable record, of which we may well be proud, and one which the Chief Justice told the Grand Jury he believed to be the first of its kind in our history.

Yet there are those who decry the vigilance of the authorities and

of the Government with regard to law enforcement. There are those who say that the purpose of the forthcoming Plebiscite is that a rum-shop may be opened at your door. Propaganda of this nature is fantastic and absurd, and is no credit to the intelligence and activities of those propagating it.

The Government urges no one to vote for one question in preference to the other; all we desire is an honest expression of opinion from as many of the electors as can possibly get out and vote. Permit me to say, however, that the New Temperance Act has been carefully drafted with the protection of youth and intertempers in mind.

The editor of The Literary Digest in 1936, at the height of Prohibition in the United States, summed up the youth situation there as follows:

"The teen age totes its own; it is saturated with the sophistries which usually distinguish adults morally gone to seed; from the youth of the land the jails and prisons are recruiting as victims those who should still be playing marbles or be playing with dolls.

"It would be squandering space to recite details with which every newspaper reader is familiar. Everyone can recall reading of rum parties engaged in by high school boys and girls, or young mothers themselves and bandits brought to bay—a sickeningly large number. There is more drunkenness among school and university students than one could have believed possible."

### Key to Situation

Fortunately, we do not have such conditions here. But, in their zeal and energy and haste to condemn those in authority, there are those who overlook what is perhaps the key to the whole situation. This:

Before Prohibition we had active Temperance organizations everywhere. The drinking of alcohol to excess was discouraged and condemned by the public generally. That was because Temperance, and not Prohibition, was the watchword. Temperance was the slogan, and we were a temperate people. Prohibition was as yet unborn. Came one day when many leaders in the Temperance movement began to feel that nothing short of total Prohibition could or would be satisfactory. The last quarter of the nineteenth century was marked by the increasing activities of Temperance Lodges and Total Abstinence Pledges, and by the passing of laws in nearly all Provinces and States requiring Temperance Education in the Public Schools.

Advocacy of Local Option and of Provincial, State and National Prohibition became organized and vocal. In 1898 Canada had a national vote on Prohibition which showed large majorities for it in all but one of the Provinces. The people were voting for Temperance. I, myself, voted enthusiastically in 1898 for Prohibition although I was under age.

Mine was a temperance family, and I continued to uphold Prohibition until 1927, when I came to an age of better understanding. I was misled for a time by Prohibition propaganda. But the experiences with mandatory prohibition in the United States and elsewhere, and the growing lawlessness and crookedness worked by Prohibition, changed my opinion.

During the first quarter of the twentieth century, the Prohibition movement reached its climax. When, during the first World War, practically the whole North American Continent went Dry by Local Option, State Legislation, and finally by National War-time Prohibition in Canada; while the United States wrote it into its constitution in shorter time and by greater majorities than any other of the previous seventeen amendments.

The second quarter of this century has witnessed the repeal of Prohibition in every Canadian Province except our own, and in nearly all of the United States, and the disappearance of Local

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The second quarter of this century has witnessed the repeal of Prohibition in every Canadian Province except our own, and in nearly all of the United States, and the disappearance of Local

option from the urban areas of North America.

What did the "noble experiment" (to use President Hoover's classic phrase) indicate? Two conclusions are, in my judgment, unavoidable by intelligent and observant citizens of Prince Edward Island:

(1) The early results of the closing of avenues of sale were beneficial and excellent, and clearly demonstrated that over-indulgence in alcohol is a major factor in the social and crime problems of modern society.

(2) But the repeal of Prohibition in the United States in faster time and by larger majorities than its enactment, and likewise its repeal in eight of the Canadian Provinces, demonstrated quite as clearly that society as a whole is not prepared to accept compulsory total abstinence, even in the face of such magnificent results. It became smart to outwit the law. Bootlegging became the new pathway to quick wealth. And the vast mass of middle-of-the-road citizens of North America turned to some form of State Control.

**All Should Vote**

The net result, therefore, is that Prohibition definitely disclosed a large part alcohol plays in social problems, but that it has not been generally speaking, an acceptable method of reducing its use as a beverage. You, good citizens of Prince Edward Island, will therefore consider with great care the merits of other techniques and wise Temperance legislation; and moral leaders will not abuse those who differ with them, but will seek to find the most effective program of fostering sobriety.

Citizens of Prince Edward Island you may as well vote on this issue on Monday next. It is an appeal for democratic government. You will probably have to find your own way to the polls. If you do not vote, you are encouraging the kind of government against which we so recently fought and bled. There must be an adequate expression of opinion in this election, and you must vote as the Government must have a mandate, clear and unequivocal. You are less than a good citizen if you fail to vote.

# Baptist Church Takes Stand For Prohibition

We the duly appointed delegates of the P.E.I. United Baptist Churches gathered in annual session at Central Bedeque, June 25th, do hereby re-affirm our faith in Prohibition. In view of the Plebiscite to be taken Monday, June 28th, we call upon our people;

1--To exercise their sacred privilege and cast their vote.

2--To vote for the retention of the old prohibitory law as it was prior to the "Cullen" amendment rather than for the New Temperance Act.