

Senator Dickey said:—"It would be a great misfortune to undertake to put this law into force in any community where there was not a decided preponderance in favor of it—not a preponderance of the active, enthusiastic people who chose to go out and cast their votes and exercise themselves on this question, but a decided preponderance of the whole body of the electors."

These are the views of prominent Senators, and some of them active temperance men. Mr. Mackenzie, when the subject was before the House of Commons, repeated in substance the statement I have just quoted. He said his mind had always been that the community had a perfect right to protect itself by a law of this kind. On the other hand, he quite admitted that there was almost an absolute necessity that there should be a strong, if not universal, opinion in favor of the enactment. A measure which even apparently restricted the members of any portion of the community on general grounds affected the whole community; and for this reason he would never favor the enactment of a prohibitory law which was not subject to the test of the vote of the people, until he was satisfied that there was an overwhelming majority of the whole community in favor of such a measure.

Sir Leonard Tilley's Experience.

Among those who spoke on the subject of prohibition in the House of Commons debates in 1884, and with whom I had the honor of a place in the House in my early Parliamentary career, was

Sir Leonard Tilley, regarded by all of us early temperance workers as the advocate of temperance and prohibition par excellence. The proposition was before the House of Commons on motion of Mr. Foster:—"That this House is of the opinion, for the reasons hereinafter set forth, that the right and most effectual legislative remedy for these evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes," to which an amendment was moved as follows:—"And this House is of opinion that the public sentiment of the people of Canada calls for immediate legislation to that end." Sir Leonard Tilley spoke against the resolution, and in so doing related some of his own experiences. He became Premier of New Brunswick in 1885, and passed a prohibitory law. It was not in operation more than six months—in fact, I do not know whether it was in operation so long as that—when Sir Leonard, owing to the action of the Lieutenant-Governor, had a dissolution of the House forced upon him. An election followed, and Sir

Leonard Tilley and many of his colleagues were defeated, and only two or three of those who supported the prohibition measure were returned. Speaking from a wide experience and with an earnest desire that his words should be helpful to the temperance cause, Sir Leonard afterwards, in addressing himself to the resolution, said, after reciting his own experience:—"I can understand the delicacy of an hon. gentleman voting against the last amendment, as a temperance man and a prohibitionist, because as such he would seem inconsistent, and I noticed cheers when my name was called as voting against the immediate adoption of prohibition, but I did so because I believe it is in the interest of temperance that we should not enact a law that will not be enforced. I speak with the experience I had thirty years ago, and have had ever since 1856. When the convention was held in Montreal, I was written to by one of the leading friends of temperance, asking my opinion. I was unable to be present, but I wrote a letter in reply, which letter Mr. Ross read at a convention held in Ottawa. What was the opinion I then expressed? I stated that if they decided to submit the proposal to the popular vote they should not suggest less than a three-fifths vote, because if carried by a bare majority, and without public sentiment behind it, the law would fail, and the cause of temperance would be damaged, instead of benefited. . . . If a prohibitory law were enacted to-morrow I am satisfied it could not be enforced, and nothing could do more damage to the cause of prohibition than the enactment of a law, followed by its non-enforcement and ultimate repeal. It would then take us a century to get back to our starting-point." That is a very strong expression. Perhaps it could not be from any other source in which I have greater confidence; an expression calling for thought, giving an experience of twenty-five or twenty-six years in the temperance movement, in all its ups and downs, flows and ebbs in Canada and the United States, and it is worthy of the most careful consideration.

A Great Majority Required.

Another very active member of Parliament, and a member of the Dominion Alliance, was Mr. Dixon Craig, who expressed his opinion in 1896, when the subject of prohibition was before the House. He says:—"But we must admit, and I admit it frankly, that this question of a prohibitory law is a most difficult one for any Parliament to deal with. I claim that a prohibitory law must have a great majority behind it, not only of those who vote, but of all who have votes in this country. It was a great weakness in the Scott act that it required for its adoption only a majority of the votes cast. It would have

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