

regard to the criticisms levelled at the administration of the license law at Tuesday's Massey Hall convention. The Liberal leader was more satisfactory. He informed the callers that the Opposition members, carrying out their pre-election pledge, had already taken the matter into consideration, and that they expected to have their temperance policy ready for presentation to the people, through the Legislature, before the end of the present session, a statement that Mr. Gibson, a "good Tory"—as he described himself—approved of heartily.

#### **Sentiment Strongly Temperance.**

The call upon the Government was a short one, Mr. Gibson, Rev. Father Minehan, Mr. W. E. Raney, K.C., and Mr. Ben. F. Spence being the only speakers. The first three discussed the general aspects of the question, while Mr. Spence gave the Ministers a few statistics. He showed that a clear majority of Ontario municipalities either had no license or had voted for the abolition of the bar. Sentiment in the Province had shown itself in favor of temperance measures.

Hon. Mr. Hanna asked Mr. Spence whether an Opposition member had had as part of his platform in the recent campaign the abolition of the bar, of treating, and of selling in clubs. Mr. Spence replied that he could not name one, but he was confident there were a number.

The Provincial Secretary replied to the criticisms that liquor was sold freely on the lake boats. He said that no liquor was sold on the ferries or the Niagara boats. The steamers on which it was sold plied between international points, and were outside the control of the Province. He stated positively that the administration of the license law in the border towns, about which complaint was made at the convention on Tuesday, had never been better.

#### **Called Upon Liberal Leader.**

The temperance men presented much the same arguments to the Liberal leader. Mr. Gibson reminded Mr. Rowell of Sir Oliver Mowat's pledge, which had never been redeemed, and declared that the Liberal party could never hope to recover the confidence of the people unless it redeemed that pledge. He said the Liberal party was face to face with a golden opportunity.

Mr. Rowell, in reply, referred to the position he had taken at Massey Hall, and at the meetings before the election, when he had declared that the Liberals would formulate a temperance policy and bring it before the people.

In the policy upon which the Liberal party appealed to the electors of this Province in the month of November last the following statement appears with reference to the evils of the liquor traffic:—

"The evils of intemperance constitute a grave social peril. During the ensuing Parliamentary term we will consider the best form of legislation to deal effectively with these evils, and the electors will have an opportunity of passing upon our proposals at the following general election."

#### **Carrying Out a Promise.**

"Pursuant to this promise," said Mr. Rowell, in conclusion, "we have already entered upon the investigation and consideration of this most important matter. We are glad to receive the resolutions you have submitted, and are pleased to hear the statements and representations you have made. These will be carefully and sympathetically considered by us. It is our intention to continue this investigation and consideration, and I confidently expect we will be in a position to make a definite announcement of our policy during the present session of the Legislature."

"Good," commented Mr. Gibson, as the deputation left. "That's quite satisfactory."

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