

ROWELL'S ARGUMENT IN A NOBLE CAUSE

*Liberal Leader in a Brilliant Speech Pleads for Abolish-
ment of the Bar, for Moral, Social
and Economic Reasons.*

**POINTS OUT THAT LOCAL OPTION
WILL DISPOSE OF OTHER LICENSES.**

**Clearly Shows the Great Havoc Wrought by Liquor
Traffic and the Many Advantages
of Its Withdrawal.**

Not since the memorable days of the referendum and Gamey debates has the Legislature witnessed such a throng as that which filled the floor and galleries yesterday to hear the discussion on the proposal of Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., Liberal Leader, to abolish the bar in this Province. The occasion itself was noteworthy because it meant the implementing of a promise given by the Liberal Leader before the recent election, that as soon as time would permit he would declare the attitude of himself and his party on the temperance question. That he expected opposition not only from the Government, but from organized liquor interests as well, he cheerfully admitted. "It may be that some of the men in this Province who have co-operated with the Liberal party on all measures in the past may not find it possible to co-operate with us on this measure. Such being so, I regret the fact, but I believe the resolution to be right; I believe it to be in the interests of the country; and believing that, we can do naught less than press it upon the attention of the House and the country in the hope that the House and the country will adopt it."

MASTERLY REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.

Mr. Rowell's speech was a masterly review of the temperance situation. He dwelt upon the economic, the social and the scientific aspects of the liquor traffic, the industrial loss it occasioned, and the factor it was in producing crime, insanity and pauperism. He showed the influence upon the home, and indicated what the drinking habit actually cost the Province in dollars every year. He had not sought nor coveted the position he held as Leader of the Opposition in the House, nor the position of Prime Minister of the Province. "To these I have never aspired: not because I did not appreciate the honor and the importance of these positions, but other walks of life would have appealed to me more than these. The only inducement I had to accept the position, the only reason why in this House to-day I enter upon this contest, the only reason why I enter upon it in the country is this: I hope in some small way and in some small measure to be able to contribute to the betterment of the moral, social and industrial condition of the people of this my native Province. I can think of no better way that will contribute to these results than by the abolition of the bar—completely wipe it out in the Province of Ontario!"

PREPARED TO FIGHT.

"It is a matter of great gratification to us at the manner in which this policy has already been received throughout the country. Men of both political parties, of all classes of life, men of all shades of opinion interested in the moral well-being of the people, have given it strong encouragement and strong support," said Mr. Rowell.

"I want to say that we recognize that we will have opposed to us when election time comes one of the best organized, the strongest and most effective oppositions which can possibly be brought forward—the opposition of the liquor interests. I am not now speaking of the opposition from the Government, but of the opposition coming from the liquor interests. I expect that they will have at their disposal unlimited sources of money, that they will fight for their life, and fight vigorously. I am not complaining about that—I am simply stating the difficulties which I believe will confront us."

GRAVE EVILS OF THE TRAFFIC.

"One of the significant signs of the times is the growing recognition upon the part of the people not only of this country but of all the progressive countries in the world of the grave evils of the liquor traffic," began Mr. Rowell. "At the recent International Conference, held at The

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