

# ROWELL AGAIN FIGHTS FOR ABOLITION OF BAR

## The Liberal Policy

(1) The immediate abolition of the bar, including therein the abolition of all hotel and club licenses, and therewith the treating system. (2) Such other restrictions upon the residue of the liquor traffic as experience may show to be necessary to limit its operations and effective to remedy its evils. Local option to be maintained as a means of wiping out the residue of the retail sale, where the electors so decide. (3) The strict enforcement of the law by officials in sympathy with law enforcement, and the elimination of political influence from the administration of the law. (4) Regulation and inspection of all houses of public entertainment, so as to insure reasonable accommodation for the travelling public.

### THE GOVERNMENT'S SUBSTITUTE.

Moved by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Dr. Reaume :

That all the words in the motion after the first word be struck out and the following substituted therefor :—

This House fully recognizes the duty cast upon it to minimize as far as possible the evil effects of the drink habit by wise restrictions upon the traffic in intoxicating liquors.

This House also recognizes that, having regard to the decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as to the respective jurisdiction of the Dominion and the Provinces, it is impossible for the people of the Province through the Legislature to abolish or control the manufacture within or the importation into the Province of intoxicating liquors ; that great good has resulted from the adoption and operation of local option under the provisions of Provincial legislation in that behalf, by which in the localities adopting it the sale of intoxicating liquors, both in bars and shops, is abolished ; that to forbid the sale of such liquors in bars, while permitting such sale in shops, would be disastrous in the extreme, and would increase the evils resulting from the traffic and the habit ; that this House reaffirms its belief as to the evil effects of the treating habit, which should be put an end to if possible by means of legislation or by any other satisfactory action.

### THE LENNOX AMENDMENT.

Moved in amendment to the amendment by Mr. Lennox, seconded by Mr. McNaught, that the following words be added to the amendment :—

This House desires to put on record its appreciation of the good work done by the present Government and the Province during the past eight years by the earnest, faithful, and non-partisan administration of the liquor license law, and the desirable and effective improvements which have been added thereto ; and this House deprecates the attempts that have been made and are being made by interested persons to bring what has been called the temperance question into the arena of party politics.

## The Liberal Leader's Second Challenge is Met by a Negative Attitude

### SIR JAMES SILENT DURING DEBATE

### Government Amendment Rests on Anti-treating and Administrative Record

Once again the line has been drawn in the fight to abolish the bar. Twice within a twelvemonth the Liberal party in the Legislature has challenged the Government to declare its position on this advanced measure of temperance reform, and twice has the Government negatived the proposal. The debate yesterday was hardly less momentous than that of April 3 last, when Mr. Rowell first discussed his policy. The floor of the House and all the galleries were crowded with eager and attentive listeners, and at times the feeling ran so high that the rules of the House were offended and applause broke out.

Mr. Rowell's exposition of the Liberal platform was lucid and logical. Admitting that the evils of the liquor traffic were well recognized, the whole question was how best to curtail those evils. No preconceived plan could be followed, but progress would have to be made step by step. He disagreed with Sir James Whitney's declaration that the rising tide of public feeling was no greater than twenty years ago, and went on to show that the growth of local option sentiment in Ontario during the past ten years was sufficient warrant for the total abolition of the open bar.

The liquor traffic was strongly entrenched behind the bar, and if the bar was abolished with it would go the admitted evils of the treating habit. As to the necessity for immediate action, a united House passed on that question last year. At the time it was declared that the Government had nailed its colors to the masthead, and the position now looked as if those colors had been deserted.

### Mr. Hanna in Defence.

Hon. Mr. Hanna took up the cudgels in defence of the Government. Local option was here and would remain on the statute books of the Province. Referring to Mr. Rowell's resolution that "the public interest demands," Mr. Hanna wanted to know how public opinion could be understood except by what was disclosed at the polls. What with the abolition of the bar, local option to operate against shop licenses and the Scott act in unorganized districts, the Provincial Secretary declared there would be endless confusion in administering the law and a great deal of overlapping. The time had come when the three-fifths clause required no defence, while in the matter of law enforcement the Government could point to a record of efficiency from the first year it took office. Under the late Government not a dollar had been spent in special attention to complaints under the license act, but last year the expenditure under this head had been \$28,000. It was the