

### The Conservative Position.

"It is unnecessary for me to say one word in this House as to the position the Conservative party occupies with regard to the liquor question," began Hon. Mr. Hanna. "It is unnecessary to repeat what has been said on former occasions, both in the House and out of the House," he proceeded. "When we introduced on March 6, 1902, an amendment to a resolution then before the House, the Conservative party gave the country assurance that they would in no way relax the restrictions on the sale of liquor.

"That to-day is the position of the Government," Hon. Mr. Hanna continued. "Local option has and will continue to have a place on the statute books of this Province. That was the position of the Conservative party when in Opposition, and it is the position of the Conservative to-day. (Applause.)

"How much justification is there for some of the statements in this resolution submitted by the honorable leader of the Liberal party?" he asked. "That in the opinion of this House," it says, "the public interest demands, first, the abolition of the bar." How are we to judge of what the public interest demands, except by what the public say when they go to the polls? (Applause.)

### Whence Public Demand.

"Let us see when this loud demand came," the speaker proceeded. "The public interest demanded the abolition of the bar when? When did the Opposition become convinced there was this loud call? It can scarcely be said of the honorable leader of the Liberal party that he knew just exactly where he himself stood. (Loud applause.) But the public has known the position of the Prime Minister ever since he came into power, and what did the public interest say in June, 1908? 'We endorse what you are doing.' (Loud applause.) I want to say that when the public voted in June, 1908, the public was not demanding that the bars should be wiped out. Not only that, but in December, 1911, shortly after the Liberal convention in the city of Toronto, we had another election, and if the public was demanding then that the bars be wiped out, I want to say that public interest was not in very close touch with the Liberal convention." (Loud applause.)

### The Club Question.

Dissecting the Liberal proposals, Mr. Hanna said his hon. friend (Mr. Rowell) had left nothing to the Government but the shops. He characterized as incorrect the statement that the Whitney Government had legalized the sale of liquor in clubs, and went on to show that as a result of legal decisions in England Sir Oliver Mowat had introduced an amendment to the license act allowing the sale of liquor in social clubs. Up to the time the present Government assumed power no charge had been made against clubs for the privilege of selling liquor, a charge which they properly should pay, and so the license fee had been introduced.

The Provincial Secretary indulged in some humor at the expense of the Liberals by pointing to the bye-elections last fall in East Middlesex and North Waterloo, declaring that the electors came to their support in "shoals" to such an extent that public opinion was coming their way, and next year they would be able to take a further step.

### Uphold Three-fifths Clause.

Assuming that the Liberal policy were adopted, Mr. Hanna pointed out that there would be great overlapping and confusion. One proposal was to wipe out the bar. Local option during the past ten years had been pretty nearly what the people of the Province wanted. The time had come when the three-fifths clause required no defence. In a recent instance when delegates were being sent to attend the meetings of the Dominion Alliance at Leamington they were told to leave the three-fifths clause alone.

On the question of the administration of the liquor license law, Mr. Hanna contrasted the amount spent in providing for special work by officers of the department compared with what had been spent by the former Government. Prior to 1905 not a dollar had been applied to in-

vestigating complaints, but during 1912 a sum not less than \$28,000 had been provided to assist in the enforcement of the law. "We not only give it our personal attention," he declared, "but the officers of the department who are charged with that duty, from one end of the Province to the other, thoroughly understand that there is to be no compromise with anyone with regard to the enforcement of the law." (Conservative cheers.)

### People Will Judge.

Dr. James McQueen (North Wentworth), referring to the Lennox amendment, said it might be right enough to pass a resolution of confidence in the Government on the strength of a party majority, but that very action would bring them within the judgment of the people of the Province. The policy of the Government was to "stand still and be pat." He charged the Provincial Secretary with making inaccurate statements with regard to the position taken by Mr. Rowell upon the temperance question in 1911. In the first place, no Liberal convention was held that year, and in the second place, at the Liberal convention in 1904 Mr. Rowell had openly advocated further restrictions upon the liquor traffic.

The member for North Wentworth expressed some surprise that the Prime Minister had given way to Mr. Hanna to lead the Government forces in the debate. "What has become of the Prime Minister?" he asked.

"Have a little patience," replied Sir James.

"Is the Provincial Secretary not satisfied with the presentation of the case made by the Prime Minister last year," continued Dr. McQueen, "and attempts himself to strengthen the wabbling legs of the Government?" (Laughter.)

Dr. McQueen turned against the Government its jibes that the Liberals had failed to place candidates in the bye-elections of East Middlesex and North Waterloo, by asking why was anti-treating tabooed by all Government speakers in those campaigns. Not a word had been uttered in urging the anti-treating policy upon the favorable consideration of the people.

### McKeown Defends Government.

Mr. C. R. McKeown (Dufferin) said that the Liberal attitude in the past had been to "lay hold of any old policy to get us out of this." It was the same practice of the Liberals in Opposition at Ottawa. "When they cannot do anything they are willing to do everything." The policy of the Whitney Government had been and was a progressive policy. The action of the Ontario Alliance convention in endorsing the Rowell policy was not the result of unanimous opinion. He denied that the present Government permitted License Commissioners to retain office if it was shown that their actions were too much affected by political bias. A Tory License Commissioner had been removed from the county of Dufferin by the Provincial Secretary for this reason. It was not necessary, he added, for the Liberal members to tell the House of the evil effects of alcohol. The Government was alive to its evil effects, and was doing all that was possible towards its eradication.

The member did not believe in the license system. If the sale of liquor was a good thing for the community every man should be allowed to sell it; if it was a bad thing it should be cut out absolutely. He hoped the day would soon come when the liquor license would be wiped out of the Province completely.

"The Liberal leader said he opposed the three-fifths clause to-day," said Mr. McKeown, "and that is just where I stood six years ago, but I have since changed my attitude to this clause. I think it eminently just and fair. It is one of the greatest things the temperance people ever got from this Province." In conclusion Mr. McKeown said the present Government had done away with more bars in its eight years of power than the former Government did in its thirty years.

### Time for Advance.

Mr. R. J. McCormick (West Lambton) said he thought the time had come when the Province should make advance in the direction of temperance reform as well as in other directions. The very progress made by local option in recent years was the strongest indication of the need for more advanced temperance legis-