

lation. It was no argument to say that the late Government had not done enough for temperance; for his own part he would admit it. But it was surprising to see the position taken by the hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. Hanna) in view of the recent local option contest in Sarnia. Coincident with the demand for the abolition of the bar there had come a call from all over the Province for men who would support the cause of temperance and carry its advocacy from day to day into the councils of the nation.

Mr. McCormick repudiated a statement published in *The London Free Press*, that the Liberal party would have to dispense with its present leader. "What has *The Free Press* to do with Mr. Rowell?" he declared amid applause. "We are proud of Mr. Rowell. He believes he is right and has the courage to stand for his convictions."

Mr. Wm. McDonald (Centre Bruce) agreed with Mr. McKeown, that it would be a nice thing if the temperance question could be taken out of politics, but as long as politics was the science of government no hope could be entertained that the administration of the liquor traffic could be divorced from politics. For himself he had been a temperance advocate all his life, and as proprietor of a newspaper had consistently advocated prohibition and local option.

Once local option was established, continued Mr. McDonald, the security provided by the three-fifths clause was its weakness. The tendency was to induce the temperance forces to lay down their arms and rest. This disintegration of fighting organizations was not good, and if local option was maintained and held by a majority vote it would make for more efficient propaganda work. He was not prepared to answer for the sins of the late Government, and declared that it would have been wise for Sir George Ross to nail his colors to the mast of total prohibition and gone down to defeat in that cause.

Mr. Studholme's Position.

Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) declared that the temperance question was the greatest of all questions before any legislative body. He said he would vote both for the resolution and the amendment if he was permitted, and as he did last year. He would vote for the resolution and would then vote for the amendment because he knew he would be beaten on the former. He would vote for the latter, for he wanted something done looking to the curbing of the liquor traffic. He referred to statements made in the House in the afternoon to the effect that the Government should not go beyond public opinion in temperance legislation, and said that if organized labor never went beyond or ahead of public opinion it would not be where it was to-day. The Government, he said, was playing with the liquor traffic, being satisfied with "nipping a little off its tail each year." The Opposition would wipe it out with a single stroke. The abolition of the bar, he argued, was indisputably for the good of the community.

Points From Mr. Rowell's Speech

"Churchmen, business men, employers of labor and bodies of men have passed resolutions in favor of the abolition of the bar in Ontario.

"After weighing carefully all the facts presented to us, we came to the conclusion that the legislation now urgently needed is the legislation embodied in our abolish-the-bar resolution.

"Out of 77 municipalities voting on local option by-laws, there was a majority of votes for local option in 63 and a minority in only 14.

"I am against the bar anywhere and everywhere.

"Any means placed at my disposal by which the bar can be wiped out,

I am ready to help, no matter where the invitation comes from.

"The abolition of the bar means for one thing, the abolition of all hotel liquor licenses.

"Our abolish-the-bar policy would make local option permanent. It would abolish club licenses in all parts of the Province and would wipe out the treating system.

"The effect of our policy would be this: Out of 835 municipalities the retail sale of liquor would be entirely wiped out except in 83 or 84 municipalities where shops exist.

"We will (abolish the shops) if our hon. friends will support us.

"The bar is the most fruitful source of evil."