

# PUBLIC SENTIMENT AGAINST THE BAR

*Liberal Speakers Declare the Stand of the Party is a  
Response to the Call of Duty—Mr. Hugh Munro  
Points to Experience in Glengarry*

On the continued debate in the Legislature yesterday on Mr. Rowell's resolution to abolish the bar the unanimity and harmony of the Liberal members on this question was further emphasized in two vigorous speeches delivered by Mr. Hugh Munro (Glengarry) and Mr. Sam Clarke (West Northumberland). The only speaker on the Conservative side was Mr. George W. Neely (East Middlesex), who attempted to draw an analogy from the recent by-election in that constituency. Mr. A. E. Peck (West Peterborough) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Speaking as a manufacturer for many years, Mr. Munro's remarks had the weight of experience. Admittedly the question of temperance reform was one of the greatest before the people of the Province, yet it was strange in the face of the resolution passed last year the Government had not even intimated what it proposed to do to prohibit treating in hotels. He pointed to a great improvement in Glengarry county since the adoption of local option. There had been a great diminution of crime, and he declared that the rising tide of public sentiment in the Province was more responsible for improvement in this respect than any legislation passed by the present Government.

#### An Opportunity Missed.

Mr. Sam Clarke (West Northumberland) said that the position of the Liberals on the question was in response to the call of duty.

"If you won't go first, let us go first," he declared; "but if you will, we will drop behind and shove you ahead." (Applause.)

The three-fifths clause was a handicap, and not the benefit claimed by the Government. It was useless of Sir James to point to the inability of the Legislature to prohibit the importation or manufacture of liquor, "but this House can refuse to license any bar in Ontario."

Mr. Munro, continuing the debate, said the effects of the liquor traffic were a curse to the Province and to the Dominion. Both sides of the House were unanimous on this point. He referred to the resolution unanimously adopted by the House last session, setting forth the importance of further restrictive legislation. He wanted to know why the Government could not see its way clear to going the rest of the way in its legislation and wipe out the bars. The benefits which had resulted from prohibition in six or eight States of the Union were well known.

#### Conditions Improved.

Mr. Munro then called attention to the improved conditions in his county, which was now almost entirely dry. A remarkable change had been brought about. There was a notable absence of crime, and in the town of Alexandria, where he resided, there had not been a serious row since local option was carried two years ago. The Government had taken great credit to itself for the beneficial legislation it had passed in the interests of temperance. The rising tide of public sentiment in the Province during the past twenty years, Mr. Munro said, was largely responsible for the Government's action on the matter.

Continuing, Mr. Munro showed what evil effects followed the enforcement of the liquor law from the politics shown on the License Boards. He paid a tribute to the efficiency and thoroughness of the work done by the license inspector in his county. This inspector, he pointed out, was

not in reality appointed because of the Government's selection, but as the result of representations made to the Provincial Secretary by citizens of the county of Glengarry. He emphasized the importance of taking the whole question of temperance legislation out of politics.

Mr. Munro then dealt with the iniquity of the three-fifths clause. He showed how unfair it was by recalling that there were 281 licenses in municipalities that had given majorities against any licenses, but were unable to have their desires granted owing to this provision.

The Government, he said, took credit to itself for recently having Dr. McCullough sent to New York to interview Dr. Friedmann regarding his tuberculosis cure, with a view to getting new and effective means of lessening the ravages of the white plague. It would be more creditable to the Government, he said, if it abolished the bar and removed the most prolific cause of disease.

#### A Loyal County.

Mr. Munro then dealt with the charge made by Mr. Pratt (South Norfolk) in the House to the effect that "if you scratch a Liberal you will find an enemy of Great Britain." He said he noticed that in the adjustment of the difficulties between Mr. J. G. Anderson and Mr. A. C. Pratt in the House previously in the afternoon Mr. Pratt did not withdraw his statement about the navy and the alleged disloyalty of the Liberals. Mr. Munro said: "Does the honorable member intend to brand the members of this Opposition traitors and disloyal men?" He said he would resent as strongly as possible the charges of the member for South Norfolk. As to his own county, he said more medals of the Peninsular war could be found in Glengarry than in any other five counties in the Province. Such a fact, he said, proved that he and his riding could not be accused of disloyalty to Great Britain.

#### Mr. Neely's Evidence.

Contrary to the advice of some of his friends, Mr. G. W. Neely, the elected Conservative member for East Middlesex, recounted the history of the campaign responsible for his election last October. He pointed out that in the township of London the largest township in the Province, and with eleven licenses, local option was defeated three years ago by a small majority, and that the riding in which that township is situated elected him to the Legislature last October by the largest majority ever given in the history of that riding. This was a great testimony of the efficiency of the present Government's temperance policy. He argued that there should be no change in the Government's method of dealing with the question, and that it was no use to swap horses while crossing the river.

#### The Call of Duty.

Mr. Sam. Clarke (West Northumberland), in a characteristic speech, declared that the proposal to abolish the bar was no catch cry launched before an election. To the leader of the Opposition it was the call of duty. It did not matter to Mr. Rowell if it did not bring him a majority in the country, nor to the members on the Opposition side. But he would make every member of the House say whether or not he would abolish the open bar in the Province and put an end to the retail sale of liquor at the first opportunity.

Mr. Clarke, continuing, pointed out that the Government, with the confidence of the moral reformers of the Province and the liquor interests behind it, had missed a splendid opportunity to lead the way to put an end to the bar. The Opposition would be behind the Government. "The