

to more efficiently enforce the present law.

#### A Forgotten Promise.

Dealing with the question of law enforcement, Mr. Rowell said when the present Government was in Opposition one pledge it gave to the electors was that, if returned to power, it would eliminate political influence from the administration of the law. "I am not going to take up the time of the House in discussing such a self-evident and well-known proposition, that they have done nothing of the kind from first to last. To-day political influence is one of the most dominating factors in constituencies throughout the Province in connection with the administration of the law." Another matter was the appointment of a central Provincial License Board, but evidently the Provincial Secretary had not been able to get the endorsement of the Government to such a proposal.

The final clause of the resolution, dealing with the proper inspection and supervision of places of public accommodation, Mr. Rowell said, was one of great importance to the large body of men who were compelled to depend on hotels throughout the Province for proper and comfortable housing. If an hotelkeeper was more interested in developing his bar trade the purpose for which his business was established would be neglected. He had heard it stated on good authority that hotels where local option was in force were no worse and in many cases a great deal better than when the bars were permitted to run.

#### Demand for Temperance.

In conclusion, Mr. Rowell pointed to the great progress which temperance reform was making in all countries of the world. In Ontario the recent decision in the counties of Huron, Peel, and Welland had amply demonstrated the tide of public sentiment. In the two former counties, in spite of the organized liquor interests, the sympathy of the Conservative party and the assistance of Inspector Snider, the Canada temperance act had carried, and it would have been carried in Welland county if the election had not been stolen. The members of the House had all gone on record that more advanced temperance legislation was necessary, and recently the Government had received a petition signed by 9,000 or 10,000 young Conservatives asking for legislation to abolish the bar, which should be adopted on a reference to the electorate. Where that proposal differed from the one before the House was that the Liberals had given the definite pledge as part of their party platform that if they were returned to power the bars would be abolished.

The organized temperance forces had placed their proposals before both parties. Men of both political faiths were united in the movement, and he could not believe if the Government would not move that these men would not support a proposal to give advanced temperance legislation from a party opposed to their political beliefs.

#### Mr. Hanna Rejects the Rowell Policy

Hon. W. J. Hanna, in moving his amendment, alluded to what the Conservatives had done since they came into power in the way of temperance legislation and the inactivity of the Liberals in the same matter when they were in office. That Liberal pleading for an advance in temperance reform, together with the representations from Conservatives, has had some effect on the Government was amply demonstrated when Hon. Mr. Hanna was driven to foreshadow legislation in the near future. He asserted that since they came into power in 1906 there had not been a session but what they had passed some important liquor license legislation, "and if you let me say so, this session will be no exception to the rule," declared the Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Hanna, who described Mr. Rowell's speech as a very good performance, referred to the petition from the 9,000 temperance Conservatives asking for a plebiscite or a referendum, and Mr. Rowell's offer to walk across the floor and take his stand behind the Government forces in the matter. The Provincial Secretary asked the

leader of the Opposition if he recollected that in 1894 not 9,000 supporters of the Conservative party, but 192,000 electors of the Province of Ontario asked for practically the same thing that the 9,000 asked for the other day. At that time they had in this Province a Liberal Government and nothing was done to meet the requests of the 192,000. Again, in the year 1902 there was a referendum of the people of the Province, and 199,000 voted in favor of reform, and there was not a move, not a finger raised, on the part of the Government then in power.

#### What Government Has Done.

The speaker then passed on to enumerate what the Conservatives had done since they came into office in the way of amendments and improvements in administration and in bettering the condition of things in the Province. So far as a political party in the Province could claim credit to-day for temperance legislation it was the Conservative party, under Sir James Whitney, and that condition of affairs had been developed, worked out, and stimulated by what they had done session after session. When they came into power in 1905 there were for taverns some 2,516 licenses; in 1913-14 there were 1,383 licenses. The shop licenses in 1905 numbered 298; in 1914 they had 217, a reduction in shop licenses of 81. That, he claimed, was a sign of progress. "In the legislation we have enacted, in what we have done toward the strict enforcement of the law, I want to say the pledge given by Sir James Whitney has been redeemed in a way that pledges are seldom redeemed by any political party," declared the Provincial Secretary, amid vigorous thumping of desks from the Conservatives.

#### Refers to Allies.

Coming to the allegation about an alliance between the Government and the liquor interests, Mr. Hanna said the Conservative party had great reason to complain in this respect, and said the limit was surely reached recently at a Liberal gathering in the northern part of the Province when there were circulated through that meeting by the hundred papers that looked like ballots. At the top they read "Rowell and Reform," and at the second section they had "Whitney and Whiskey." If this were an isolated case he would have made no mention of it, but it was of a kind and in keeping with much that had been said in this Province within the last two years.

#### Bars and Shops.

Mr. Hanna, analyzing the resolution, said it was not clear to him why the bars should be closed and the shops left. It seemed to him that both were in identically the same position. Alluding to the portion referring to the elimination of political influence, Mr. Hanna asked the hon. member if he could point to a single instance where the Liberal party in the Province or the Dominion in a matter of the kind stopped and said: "We are going to appoint Liberals and Conservatives alike." They could judge the future by the past, and he predicted that if the hon. gentleman was in power in this Province it would not be three months before he would have more political influence in the administration of the license law than at any time since Sir James Whitney came into power.

Replying to the assertion that Inspector Snider had asked Conservatives to vote against the Scott act, the speaker said he (Mr. Hanna) had no knowledge that he did. He had a statement that he did not, but if he did he (the speaker) said he had done nothing more than the officials of the Dominion Alliance when they came to advising whether the Scott act should be put on in different counties or not. He gave that as a fact which could not be gainsaid in that House. He also declared that it was a great mistake to conclude that in order to get men who are in sympathy with law enforcement they must go into the ranks of the Dominion Alliance or any other temperance organization.

#### Mr. Grigg Cuts in.

Mr. Grigg (Algoma) and Mr. Proudfoot immediately rose after Mr. Hanna, and the Speaker decided that