

viser that he had better stop, and this he did after a short reference to the gallantry of the Canadian troops.

On the suggestion of Mr. A. E. Donovan, M.P.P., the Assembly sang the National Anthem, the Address was then carried and the House adjourned till Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Opposition Leader Offers His Support

In the course of his speech, Mr. Rowell said the member for Parkdale stated in his address to the House that he believed the situation created by the war and the present state of public sentiment in the Province demanded more radical liquor legislation than was now on the statute books. With that sentiment on the part of the member for Parkdale he found himself in entire agreement. The leader of the Opposition referred to the strong public opinion on the subject as evidenced in the petition which has recently been signed in the Province.

"I want to say this to my honorable friend the Prime Minister, and I want to say it to the members of this House, that while I may have my own view as to the method of dealing with this matter, I have already placed myself on record as to what I would do in case the Government would introduce proposals of this character. By the statements I have already made in this House and which I have made elsewhere, I am prepared to stand, and I will give my cordial support to the Government in carrying out the proposals they submit if the proposals are, as I understand they are to be, as outlined in the Speech from the Throne.

"Speaking in the House some two years ago and referring to the petition which had been presented by the Ontario Young Manhood Association, calling for action substantially as I understand the Government's present proposals, I spoke in the following terms:

One Way to Do It.

"Something was said about taking this matter out of politics. It has been in politics ever since there was a Province, ever since we have had temperance legislation put upon the statute books. It will be in politics so long as there is an organized liquor traffic in the Province; but it may not necessarily be in party controversy or party politics. There are only two ways to remove it from party controversy and party politics—either to leave the liquor traffic alone in undisputed possession of the field, or for both parties to unite on some great advance, avoid party controversy, and remove the open bars from our Province. I say, Mr. Speaker, that when we first introduced our policy into this Legislature we asked the Government to co-operate with us on this policy and forever wipe out the bars, not because we proposed the policy, but because the policy was the policy of those who have been fighting the evils of the traffic for years—the policy of the organized forces working for the improvement of the conditions in our Province, and was a policy which the public interests demanded and public opinion would support. And we said: "Let both parties agree; let us unite and forever wipe out the open bar."

Take it Out of Politics.

"Our suggestion to take this matter out of politics by both parties agreeing to wipe out the bar was not accepted by the Government, nor was any advance made towards securing a united policy. I say to my honorable friend that if he thinks the proposal presented to him by the young Conservatives of the Province is a better proposal than ours; if he thinks it is more in the public interest than ours, then, if my honorable friend will introduce legislation to carry it out, we, on this side of the House will unite with him and his friends to lift the whole question out of the region of party controversy—both parties unite and together wipe out this evil from our Province.

"I shall go further, and if my honorable friends will accept this policy, proposed to him by his own friends, and embody it in legislation, I shall be glad to join my honorable friend, the Provincial Secretary, and any other member of the Government in going

before the people and urging their acceptance of such a measure.

Present a United Front.

"I stand where I stood two years ago," exclaimed Mr. Rowell, "and I now say to my honorable friend that on this issue I hope we can present a united front on both sides. I should go a step farther in this important matter and say that, so far as I am personally concerned, I shall not be captious or critical about details if we have the essential principles of a clear, straight, early vote dealing with this matter on a fair and just basis; because I believe in a matter of so great importance as this and at a time like this it is very desirable that, if possible, we should present a united front, and that the legislation, when it goes into effect, should be by the unanimous or practically unanimous consent of the Legislature. I think it would mean a good deal in the enforcement of the law and in the general acceptance of the bill by the people of the Province if it goes forth from a united or practically united Legislature.

Willing to Go Before People.

"Two years ago," continued Mr. Rowell, "I went a step farther, and said if the Government would accept this policy and embody it in legislation I should be glad to join my honorable friend the Provincial Secretary and any other member of the Government in going before the people and urging their acceptance of such a measure. Where I stood two years ago on this matter I stand today, and if we have a bill pass through this House which carries the judgment of the House and which is to be submitted to the people I shall be very glad to join my honorable friend the Prime Minister and every member of the Government in going before the people of this Province and asking their endorsement and ratification of the measure. I desire here to extend my congratulations to the Premier and the members of the Government in proposing this legislation, which I believe has in it great possibilities for the public good of the people of the Province of Ontario.

Good of Province

is First Concern

"I am not particularly concerned over the fact that it emanates from the Government side," proceeded the Liberal leader, and the manner in which the statement was made carried sincerity. "I notice that one of the papers was good enough to suggest that the Government might steal some of my powder and introduce this bill. I am not concerned to-day with giving credit or attempting to take credit for the proposals. The thing, I submit, which supremely concerns us is the result, which I hope may be accomplished at an early date and to the good of the whole people of the Province. While that is the position which I take in reference to the proposal of the Government as I understand it, I would venture to suggest to my honorable friend, in framing the legislation, an alternative method. I venture to suggest that the extent to which the petitions have been signed, plus the general situation created by the war, justifies the Government in enacting, as a piece of legislation to go into effect at the earliest practicable date, a bill which would completely wipe out all hotel, shop, and club licenses, and that it should continue in force during the period of the war and for a reasonable period thereafter, during the period of reconstruction, and that it should not be repealed except by a vote of the people to be taken at a later date. That would enable us to deal with the subject immediately and effectively. Personally, I think that would be the preferable method of dealing with it, but, as I have already stated, I would co-operate with the Government if the proposal in the Speech from the Throne is as I understand it."

Proud of the Soldier.

Mr. Rowell then touched on the war, and said that anyone who viewed the march-past of the soldiers the previous day could not but have pardonable pride in the character of the men who are voluntarily offering their lives to achieve victory in the great cause. "This is a time when, of all times," said the speaker, "we should mitigate the matters that divide us