

mony with our spirit of democracy rather than for us transplanting part of the old feudal system into Canada."

#### Mr. Rowell for Militia Act.

After having emphasized that every effort should be strained to make the food output in the Province the greatest, and spoken in complimentary terms of Ontario having contributed 50,000 munition workers, of whom 5,500 were women, Mr. Rowell advocated the putting into force of the militia act. If the militia act was put into force for the purpose of home defence, he thought after a few months of training it would be found that many of the recruits would be glad to change from the home army to the expeditionary forces.

#### Nickel Agreement Illegal.

Coming to the question of mining taxation, Mr. Rowell characterized the agreement with the nickel corporation as illegal. "That agreement covered taxation for a period of five years," he said. "The taxation for last year under that agreement would be \$40,000. I understand from the report of an address by my honorable friend the Attorney-General that that tax for 1916 has not so far been received or collected. Why has it not been paid? I presume my honorable friend will say because the Government have decided not to accept the \$40,000 called for by the agreement already entered into, and they propose to charge additional taxation. I submit we should have had the report before us; if not the report, I hope the Prime Minister will be able to tell us what tax the Government propose upon the Canadian Copper Company. I submit with great respect when the tax has not been collected, when this company is in arrears in its taxation, we should have at the earliest possible date from the head of the Government a statement of what the Government intend to do. This large corporation, which is making money by the million out of the ore deposits of this Province, should pay enough to the Treasury at this time when we need every dollar for the expenditures of this Province—not only the full amount under the law, but the law should be revised in order that we should receive some just return in view of the enormous profits that have been made during the last few years by this company.

#### Refining of Nickel.

"I hope also the Prime Minister will be able to give us some information with reference to the refining of nickel in this Province. My honorable friend will recall that in the session of 1915, two years ago, we pressed upon the attention of the Government the importance of refining nickel within this Province. If the matter had been taken up promptly at that time I think everyone versed in the business will say that within one year or at least fifteen months refining could be carried on within the Province. But our suggestion went farther. Our suggestion went to a measure of ownership and control, and I should be glad if the Prime Minister will be able to indicate to us the policy of the Government in connection with this important matter."

#### Less Crime and More Work Shown Under Prohibition

The speaker, referring to prohibition, heartily approved the remarks which had been made to the effect that the prohibitory legislation enacted last session had been a valuable contribution to a cause of thrift and economy among the people. It was a matter of great gratification that the results from the operation of the act had been so satisfactory. A large employer of labor in western Ontario, who was not sympathetic with the legislation when it was passed, had stated that it had resulted in a twenty per cent. increase in efficiency of the work of his employees.

#### Chief Grasett's Testimony.

To-day people of all shades of opinion were testifying to the benefits which had resulted from the prohibition, went on Mr. Rowell, and no testimony was more eloquent than the report of the Chief of Police of Toronto. It showed that for the last three months of 1916 there had been only 953 convictions in the Police Court as compared with 2,980 convictions for the same period in 1915, practically a decrease of two thousand cases in three months. In London, Hamilton, Brantford and other places

In Ontario similar results had been noted. Convictions for all offences in the city of Toronto for the last three months of 1916 as against those for the corresponding period in 1915 showed that there were 2,609 fewer Police Court convictions, while in London there were 282 fewer, in Hamilton 592 fewer and in Brantford 94 fewer. "All over the Province we find in the records of the Police Courts the most cogent testimony regarding the benefits of this legislation," continued Mr. Rowell. He had met a number of County Crown Attorneys who had been bemoaning the fact that no longer had they anybody to convict. The decrease in crime had been so great that it had largely taken away their practice.

#### No Longer a Prison Farm.

The Prison Farm at Guelph, upon which the Province had spent so many thousands of dollars, was no longer needed for the purpose for which it was intended, and he was glad the Government were going to use it for such a laudable purpose. If the Government had listened to the arguments of the Liberals five years ago they would have turned off the tap, stopped the source of supply and there would have been no need for the Prison Farm, for there would have been no criminals to reform. The Liberals had stood by their policy of "abolish the bar" in good report and ill, and five members of the Opposition had sacrificed their political future in order to support this policy, which they believed to be in the public interest. "And we would have failed in our duty this afternoon if we did not pay tribute to the unselfish men and women of the Province who for years worked for this legislation. They did it when they were looked upon as cranks and faddists, and their unselfish devotion to a great cause made it possible for this House to adopt this legislation last session. We owe to them a word of appreciation and gratitude. To them should be given largely the credit."

#### Liberals and Prohibition.

Dealing with the temperance act, Mr. Rowell said it embodied two principles. It had the effect of closing all the drinking places and practically stopping the retail sale of liquor in Ontario during the period of the war; and it provided that the matter should finally be passed upon by the people of the Province by a majority vote when the war is over. The leader then reiterated the policy of the Liberal party with regard to prohibition:

"We have stood by it, and we stand by it unreservedly and wholeheartedly to-day. (Applause.) We stand by it in maintaining the act until the time comes for the people to vote, and we will stand by it in giving effect to the legislation after the vote is taken. There can be no doubt whatever what the people will do when the time comes to vote. I believe that the men in the trade recognize that the bar in this Province has gone forever. (Applause.)"

#### Encourage Standard Hotels.

"The men now engaged in the hotel trade of Ontario are rendering an important service in providing accommodation for the travelling public, and I am sure the disposition of the members of this House will be to give encouragement to them in order that we may have a high standard of public houses in this country.

"I am sure the Government will feel itself charged with the responsibility of presenting to this House such amendments to the Ontario temperance act as will render the law more effective. This done, the legislators would have cleared the way for other social reforms." (Applause.)

Mr. Rowell said the Liberals were in hearty accord with the proposal of the Government to grant the franchise to Ontarians who are serving with the British or allied forces.

#### Give Votes for Women.

He then dealt with the question of votes for women. "I voice a deep and sincere regret," he said, "that when considering the matter of franchises my honorable friends did not see fit to include the women of the Province. (Applause.) No legislation is adequate which does not make provision for the women of Ontario to vote. The part they have taken in the war has convinced a good many doubting Thomases that they should have a voice in the affairs of the Province. The right existed before the war, but if the war has helped many