

of my views, ostracising no man because he differs from me on this question, and refusing no man's help because he differs from me on all the others. (Cheers.)

#### NOW FOR MY INDIVIDUAL VIEWS.

Always strictly temperate, thirteen years ago I came to see the evils to Canada of the drinking habit so strongly that I felt it my duty to do all I could to end that habit. And I thought *the first step was to become a total abstainer myself*, and I did so. (Loud cheers.) I claim no merit at all for that act. It happened to be a very trifling sacrifice to me. Since that time, by precept and example, by voice and by vote, I have always supported what I thought to be the true interests of temperance. (Cheers.) I have long believed that the greatest boon to the people of Canada would be that we should become a nation of total abstainers. (Renewed applause.) To achieve that result I would gladly, even were I as anxious to retain as I am to quit the position I occupy, surrender it to-morrow. But now as to the means. I believe the main factor must be the formation of an enlightened, a very widely diffused, and a very strong public opinion, under which many more of our good men, our sober, virtuous, and God-fearing citizens, not now total abstainers, shall be made to see so clearly the evils of drink to the community, and their personal duty in the matter, that they shall, in the general interest, become themselves total abstainers, and having so become, shall endeavour to persuade others to follow their example and thus very largely reinforce the ranks of the voluntary abstainers. In this respect great progress has been made—I recognize it thankfully—but much more remains to be done, and if we slacken in this work and hope to save trouble to ourselves by other and wholesale and involuntary methods, we shall make the greatest mistake conceivable. (Applause.) I think no repressive legislation can be profitable or permanent unless there exists a widely-diffused and very strongly-felt and

#### VERY EARNEST PUBLIC OPINION

at its back. The tone and quality of this opinion are of as much or more consequence than its quantity. It is not from fear of the criminal law that the bulk of the community abstains from crime. The bulk would abstain if there were no criminal law. The conscience of the community would be its law. Laws generally derive their binding effect from this consideration. But for that, even though directed against a few only, they would be of little use. This view has very special application to legislation upon the subject of the general social customs of the people. It follows, then,