

Here lies the one source of real danger before which all others pale into insignificance.

But now we are through with the clouds, let us examine the fragments* that can be seen of the canopy of blue that lies back of them.

1st—The Government of Ontario is pledged to give us *all the prohibition they have the power to enact*. Do we take in the full significance of that assertion? Why, the temperance workers of New York State, for instance, would be almost delirious with joy over such a prospect!

But, you say, what confidence can we have in the promises of a party whose subordinates play the guilty part you have just described? It must be remembered that these subordinates were in office before the party pledged itself to reform; that they voice their personal preferences and not the policy of the Government, or the will of the rank and file of its followers. And while we cannot but condemn the weakness displayed in the tolerating of such rebellion against its declared policy, we believe that the promise made by Sir Oliver Mowat for the Government will, on the first opportunity, be redeemed.

What then should be our attitude towards the Government? We should strengthen its hands in every legitimate and proper way, should believe in its sincerity, and wait with patience till the Privy Council's decision has opened the door for action. But we are not called upon to wink at the dishonest and disloyal actions of any of its officers or supporters. Let us stand to the plumb line of righteousness. Condoned sin is a weakness to any cause or party.

It may be profitable to enquire what "all the prohibition they can give" would mean.

Suppose the Privy Council's decision vests the power of total prohibition in the Dominion Government, the province will yet have the right of limiting and restricting, in any way they choose short of entire extermination. Is not that a window in the clouds through which an enchanting prospect may be viewed? I dare not attempt to describe it lest the limit of your patience should be exhausted.

2nd—The next largest scrap of sky shines out where the darkness has been deepest. We refer to the increasing tendency to independent thought where political action is concerned. The old party machines that were wont to grind out candidates of shady character or shaky principles, and then look for their support from the world, the flesh, the devil and the church, are beginning to gasp with alarm as they see the rift in the clouds. Do you know that there are three independent prohibition nominees in the field for the coming dominion election, and that there will be several others before the writs are issued? Down in New Brunswick we have S. H. Flewelling, of Kings County; and Louis Young, of Carleton County; and here in Ontario we have W. W. Buchanan for the constituency in which we are meeting.

Then there are two Patron prohibition candidates—T. R. Mayberry for North, and Hugh McDonald for South Oxford. Our cause is creeping out from under the political bushel, is it not? If even one of these men succeeds in gaining the Dominion House we will have a not-to-be-silenced-friend at court.

Then the Liberal Convention of Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, pledged itself to prohibition, and chose its candidate, Shipley Spurr, in accordance with its declared policy.