

to bring people to the polls? Does he not know that there is an enthusiastic and zealous organization working for the Act everywhere? He has acknowledged that large sums of money have been spent in carrying those elections, and yet what do we see? The other day an election was held in the county of Middlesex, where there are nearly 90,000 inhabitants, and where there were, in 1882, 20,000 registered voters; how many people voted for and against that Act? Not one-third of the people registered.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B. C.)—By what majority did they carry it?

HON. MR. PLUMB—Two or three thousand. There are about 20,000 voters, of whom only 6,000 went to the polls. I say that is an evidence that the popular will, which we are called upon to respect, has not been expressed in those elections. It is easy to hold meetings and abuse this body as not representing and not being responsible to the people. Why do we not represent the people? Who presumes to say that a body constituted as the Senate is has ever shown that it had not a strong desire to uphold the morals of the community? We honestly differ in opinion from the majority in the other House and we are denounced all over the country in language which certainly is not temperate language—denounced in the most abusive manner. The hon. gentleman says we are standing against the will of the people—that is, against the will of 150,000 out of 1,000,000 voters in this Dominion. I do not deny that 150,000 persons have recorded their votes in favor of the Temperance Act, but the hon. gentleman knows that not long ago there was an election in the county of Perth; the Scott Act did not carry there. The hon. gentleman is very fond of quoting Scripture, and he says one of the strong arguments, perhaps not of himself but of others who uphold the Scott Act, is that we must submit to be punished because of a brother's offence. I will tell the hon. gentleman of another text which can be used: he that is not with me is against me. You cannot ride both sides of that question; those who do not come to the polls we must assume have not an enthusiastic de-

sire to have that Act passed. The argument is used that because they do not go to the polls they approve of the Act; we have as good a right to say—in fact a better right to say—that those who abstain from going to the polls are opposed to the Act. In the county of Hastings the Act was submitted to the people and it was defeated. We have a right to assume that there is a re-action against the proscriptive methods which have been adopted by the hon. gentleman and his friends.

HON. MR. POWER—I rise to a question of order: the hon. gentleman has drifted away from the question before the House.

HON. MR. PLUMB—I am adhering strictly to the propositions which have been made by the House of Commons in sending back this measure, and if the hon. gentleman will read the message he will see that I have done so. It says: "And further, because the amendment is in direct opposition to the wishes of a large portion of the electors of the Dominion as manifested by the petitions presented to Parliament." I have a right, on the other side, to say that I do not think it is in opposition to the wishes of a large majority of the electors of the Dominion. I have a right to go further, and say that I do not believe those petitions presented by the temperance people were signed by electors. There is no proof that they were; we cannot say whether the signers were electors or not. Therefore I say the hon. gentleman's contention that he represents the sentiments of the people is a weak one. From the time that this amendment was passed I have held that it was desirable that the counties which have already adopted the Act should be exempted from the operation of this amendment. Of course it is impossible for the Senate to make any amendment now. I should be very glad if some method could be devised by which we could do so, and I am quite in accord with the hon. member from Ottawa and my hon. friend from Amherst, who have expressed that desire. I trust that in some way or other a satisfactory solution may be arrived at of that difficulty.

The Senate divided on the motion which was agreed to on the following division.

HON. MR. PLUMB.