

intoxicating liquor evil has always existed, that the problem has never been solved in the past, and that it will never be solved in the future. For my part, I have greater faith in democracy than to think that a problem exists which democracy is not capable of solving. Let me say that, to-day more than at any other time, democracy is on trial; it is on trial at the battle-front in Europe; and if democracy cannot deal with a problem such as this, then in my estimation democracy will fail on the battle-fields of Europe, and I think the quotations which I shall give to the House in a few minutes will bear out that opinion. What other ages have failed to do I believe that we in this age are capable of doing.

I ask the indulgence of the House while I point to the opinions expressed on this question by various sections of Canada. I will give them, not in any particular order, but just as I have them jotted down from the information I had on hand. Two-thirds of Ontario is dry; or, more specifically, there are 162 municipalities without licenses, 349 municipalities under local option, and 61 municipalities under the Canada Temperance Act, or a total of 572 municipalities dry, and 279 wet. For a number of these so-called wet municipalities in Ontario, the three-fifths clause is responsible. For instance, I find that the city of Belleville gave a majority of 306 in favour of local option, Brantford a majority of 948, Port Arthur 417, Sarnia 315, Woodstock 165 and Whitby 108; all these cities and towns gave a majority in favour of prohibition or local option, but are still wet and are classed as wet by reason of the three-fifths clause. In addition to this, the Ontario Government, recognizing the will of the people as expressed in a huge petition which is about to be presented to them, have introduced in the Provincial Legislature a measure for total prohibition in the province.

Quebec is three-fourths dry: out of 1,143 municipalities or parishes, 906 are dry and 237 wet. The Premier of Quebec has also intimated that the Government is working towards prohibition.

In the province of New Brunswick, 80 per cent of the population are living under conditions known as dry; or, more precisely: of fifteen counties and three cities, nine counties and two cities are under the Canada Temperance Act; about half of the wards in the city of St. John are dry, and a large portion of the six remaining counties are also dry.

In Nova Scotia there are eighteen coun-

ties dry and one wet, namely, Halifax, and the Provincial Government have already stated that a measure will be introduced to bring Halifax under the provincial prohibition law.

Prince Edward Island is the only "all white" province in the Dominion at the present time; it is all under prohibition.

In Manitoba there are 38 municipalities without license and 49 under local option, a total of 87 dry municipalities and 71 wet. Moreover, Manitoba will, on the 13th day of March, vote on the question of provincial prohibition, and there is every indication that the measure will carry.

Saskatchewan is practically under prohibition. In the whole province liquor is sold in 23—now reduced to 20—Government shops.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Is liquor sold in those shops for beverage purposes?

Mr. STEVENS: Yes. The law in Saskatchewan came into force in June or July last. I would like to give some evidence of the effect of prohibition in Saskatchewan and also of the tendency of the people to close out these Government shops. In eleven cities: Regina, Moosejaw, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swift Current, North Battleford, Weyburn, Melville, Estevan, Humboldt and Rosetown, there were, in the months of July, August and September, 1914, 912 arrests for drunkenness; in the corresponding months of 1915, immediately after the new liquor provisions came into force, there were only 247 arrests, or a reduction of 665, an indication of how the province is progressing.

Another indication is this: Four votes, which were taken in January last on the question of whether Government shops should be opened, were defeated on the following figures:

District.	For the opening of a Government shop.	Against.
No. 23	285	1,037
No. 28	289	438
No. 37	165	842
No. 44	555	778

In three districts the following vote to close the Government shops was taken:

District.	For closing.	Against.
No. 21	476	173
No. 45	741	263
No. 46	987	487

In other words, in four districts out of seven where a vote was taken, the introduction of the shops was defeated, and in