

House. I will quote one or two authorities, good temperance authorities, and the first is Dr. Maclaren, President of the Alliance, who was interviewed at Montreal on the question of the referendum. Dr. Maclaren said: "The referendum had been variously regarded. It was held to be un-British in some quarters. Again, there were those who said it was unconstitutional. He did not hold with this view. The referendum was quite constitutional, but it, perhaps, hardly answered to our party system," and then he went on to speak of the party system. That authority on its constitutionality is of some importance. It has been said that instead of passing this measure and submitting it later to the people, we should have assumed the full responsibility of this measure ourselves.

*Sir William Meredith's Views.*

I argued against this view, inasmuch as it is not the view or the basis upon which local option is passed, nor the basis upon which the Scott Act is passed, nor is it the basis upon which many by-laws are adopted by the people. The precedents are all in favor of our course. In support of that view I notice in one of the Toronto papers a quotation from the speech delivered by Sir William Meredith on May 21st, 1894, in the City of London, which I will read, not simply because he is now Chief Justice of the court of which he is a member, but because he was at one time leader of the Conservative party. At this time he was speaking as leader of the Conservative party. No doubt he represented the view of his party then. I am equally sure that he represents the view of the best men in his party now. (Hear, hear.) He was a leader of considerable foresight, that had the confidence of his party. He fought their battle, and stood by them. He retired from active politics, and now presides as a worthy Chief Justice in the High Court. He goes on to say: "If it shall be determined that there is jurisdiction in the Local Legislature to deal with this question of the liquor traffic, then it will be the duty of any Government which is in power in Ontario to bring in a bill and pass it for the purpose of carrying into effect what has been determined to be within the jurisdiction of the Legislature." That is precisely what we are going to do. We have brought in the bill, and we are going to pass it, if we can pass it, and I think we can. "It seems to me that any such law as that," he went on, "should be an effective law, and should have no results that would be disastrous to the interests