

similar majority will make or unmake partial prohibition. (Hear, hear.) If a majority of the votes polled in West Middlesex says that Ross will be elected, Ross will be elected. He is going to be anyway, I suppose. (Laughter.)

A VOICE: I don't know about that.

THE PREMIER: There will be some doubt I hear a friend say behind me. Well, I have lived in the midst of doubts for some time, and I am good to live for a while yet. That is the position of the matter—if a majority of the people of the country want a Government, it goes in or out. If a majority of the people want prohibition, they shall have it. I don't think it is desirable that it should be a majority of the voters on the lists, for you have to consider the matters of deaths, absentees, etc. Now let us analyze the matter for a moment mathematically: We polled 75% in 1898 of the men on the lists. We polled 75%, that is to say 400,000 odd; if 200,000 say that prohibition shall carry, you have it. That is, if 50% of the 75% say so, you shall have it. That is, if 37½% on the lists say so. That is, if 3 out of every 8 on the lists say so, you can have it. That is the proposition in simple English. We say that a minority of three voters out of every eight shall have the right to force prohibition on the other five. Now I want you to think that over. Three men in this Province who go out to the polls and want prohibition can force it on the other five. Prohibition becomes the law of the land—the Government will by proclamation make it the law of the land—and the Government will give all its power, if this Government is in, to make the law effective. That is as far as I have gone. I want to say now that that is as far as we can go. There is no use mincing matters. I cannot say that a bare majority of the votes polled will give prohibition. That might mean a large or a small vote. If the day of voting is bad that might mean a very small vote. Temperance men are not more likely to come out to vote on a bad day than other people. You have great difficulties, you say, in inciting them or in forcing them to come out. That is unfortunate, but we say if three out of every eight of you come out for prohibition, you can have it. You say that we are not forcing the other people to come out. I say we don't care about them (Some cries of "Oh, oh.") I say we are not troubling ourselves about the other people. Let us be reasonable. I don't care, for instance, whether the other side in West Middlesex come out and vote against me. I don't care whether they come to the polls or stay away, but I want my own people