

but we are doing more for cold storage than ever was done before. We are giving it an amount of practical attention never given before, and great good has resulted from it and will result from it. So with regard to the canals. We have no doubt that great good will arise from the enlargement of the canals in the way we propose. I think the last subject the hon. gentleman attacked was the plebiscite. There may be a difference of opinion as to the propriety of submitting this question, or any other, to the determination of the electors by a direct vote, but it is not without precedent. The Scott Act provided for a plebiscite. It can only be brought into force by a plebiscite; and while the Liberal party were the authors of the Scott Act our opponents were in power 18 years and never proposed to repeal that Act. They had a large majority at their back, but as they never proposed its repeal, it is plain that they did not think the plebiscite was a bad thing. The plebiscite has been acted on in municipal matters also; and the mere fact that it has not been acted on in England is no answer.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—The Scott Act is a dead letter in Canada—at least it is in Ontario to-day.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—My hon. friend is wrong. On the contrary I am not aware that any province is wholly without the Scott Act. It was largely adopted at one time; but that has nothing to do with what I am dealing with now. I am merely referring to the Scott Act as a precedent for which our opponents are responsible as well as ourselves, because although they had the power to repeal it, they made no proposition to exercise their power of repeal. With regard to the Scott Act not being in general use now, the temperance people declare that they find it unavailing because if you have the Scott Act in one municipality and the municipalities all around it have not the Scott Act, you get no benefit from the Act, but rather evil. Just one word more on that: we all recognize the immense evils of intemperance and those of us who are not members of temperance societies must recognize the immense amount of good the temperance societies have accomplished by the literature they have sent abroad, by the addresses they have delivered to the public, by the zeal with which they

have prosecuted reforms of all kinds in this matter. They constitute a large portion of our people and a very respectable portion. Now it is the desire of the temperance people that this question shall be submitted to the vote of the people. They have found in Dominion, provincial and municipal elections, they could not get voters to proceed on the sole ground of this man being a temperance man and his opponent not a temperance man. Other things always came into view and were acted upon, so that while the vote of a township, for instance, under a Scott Act, might be very largely in favour of prohibition, but often could not elect a majority of municipal councillors holding that view, thereby interfering very much with the enforcement of the act in that locality. In view of these and other considerations, temperance people desire a plebiscite, and considering the importance of the subject, considering the importance of that part of our population, I hold that the demand is one which it is a right thing for us to grant. A demand to ascertain the proportion of sentiment on this subject, at the instance of these people, was a demand which it would have been wrong to refuse, and I hope the Parliament of Canada at this session will show that they take the same view.

My hon. friend is anxious to know what the policy of the government is on several points not touched on in the speech. It is not usual, in a discussion on the answer to Her Majesty's speech in the old country or His Excellency's speech in this land, to make any announcement of policy which it is not thought fit to make in the speech from the Throne. I will not make such an announcement now, but before the close of the session I probably shall. Before prorogation all the subjects my hon. friend refers to which are not touched in the speech will be brought up, and I hope the government policy will be found satisfactory to the people of this country. My hon. friend referred at the close of his speech to a subject that the mover and seconder of the address referred to in theirs—the loyalty of the people of this country to Her Majesty, and the joy we feel at her long reign and that she is still with us. It is my intention to ask the House shortly to join in an address of congratulation to Her Majesty fitting this great occasion, and while there are not many subjects on which we think the same,