

favourable opportunity had occurred to attack that right. *He declared the license laws of the Provinces were waste paper*; that the power to pass such laws was not with the Provinces, but rested with the Dominion alone. *Making a bid for the support of the licensed victuallers and the municipalities*, he promised them that if returned to power he would pass satisfactory laws at Ottawa. Accordingly, when returned, he made proposals to which the Liberals objected on the ground that there was no right or necessity to interfere, and they proposed first that there should be at least delay until the Privy Council should decide whether Sir John's construction of the law was right or wrong; and secondly, that even if his reading of the B.N.A. Act were assumed, contrary to the common understanding, to be correct, the proper step would be to seek such an amendment of the letter of the Act as would make it accord with that common understanding, and secure the right to the Provinces instead of wresting it from them. (Cheers.) But we were refused delay, we were refused redress. *We were told that every man was at that moment free to sell liquor as he pleased, that there was no law to regulate the traffic*, and that the sacred cause of temperance required immediate action at Ottawa by those WELL-KNOWN AND PRACTISED ADVOCATES OF TEMPERANCE AND TOTAL ABSTINENCE, THE GOVERNMENT AND THEIR SUPPORTERS. (Laughter.) Sir John Macdonald tried to entrap us into a committee to frame a law. As we objected to his action altogether, we declined to serve. We were told that we were refusing to discharge a great public duty. But we believed we were in truth discharging our highest duty. His committee, composed wholly of Tories, sat for a long time, and at last brought in a Bill.

SIR JOHN'S LIQUOR BILL.

A great many boasts were made about this Bill; it was said to be the best liquor law that had ever been devised; it was a magnificent law; it was such a law that the Grits would like to have had the credit of being parties to it. But they were to have none of the credit, for they had refused to have anything to do with it; the whole credit was to belong to the Tories! (Laughter.) We said we were quite willing they should have all the credit. Presently

THE PRIVY COUNCIL DECIDED THAT THE PROVINCIAL LICENSE LAWS WERE VALID,

and therefore the only ground given for pressing forward *the Dominion measure*—that of necessity—had never existed; and