

pointed to the three-fifths clause as the one objectionable feature of the bill, the time would come when with proper support from the temperance party themselves, and with proper enforcement of the law on the part of the Government and the municipalities adopting it, those same people looking back over four or five years' experience would point to the three-fifths clause as the one which above all others had advanced the cause of temperance. I am not sure that that prediction then made will not be literally fulfilled. It is not in the interests of temperance that local option should be adopted by a municipality only to create bitterness and strife between different sections of the people and to be disregarded by the majority; it is in the interests of temperance that local option, if adopted, should be passed by such a majority that it will be observed, and have a fair trial in the community that adopts it.

## The Two-thirds Majority Principle in The Churches

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, on April 10th, in reply to the motion of Mr. T. H. Preston attacking the three-fifths majority clauses of the Liquor License Act, Mr. Hanna pointed out that the same principle was embodied in the constitutions of the principal Churches, in which it must have been inserted with precisely the same object as that which had animated the Ontario Government, namely, in order to discourage inconsiderate changes. Mr. Hanna then quoted the following extracts from the Constitution of the Methodist Church and stated that the same principle obtained in greater or less degree in several of the other churches.

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

*Extract from the Doctrine and Discipline of the Methodist Church, 1906.*

Page 48, clause 94. The General Conference only shall have full power to make Rules and Regulations for our Church under the following limitations and restrictions:

(4) It shall not make any change in the General Rules of our Society except by a *three-fourths majority* and if required by either order of ministry or laity, a *two-thirds majority* of each order, voting separately.

(5) No change shall be made in the basis of Union affecting constitutional questions or the rights or privileges of ministry or laity except by a *three-fourths majority* of the General Conference, and if required by either ministry or laity a *two-thirds majority* of each order voting separately.

(6) In cases of the foregoing clauses 4 and 5, it is understood that only three-fourths and two-thirds respectively of those voting shall be required, provided that the total number present and voting shall not be less than one-half of all the members reported elected.

Clause 95. The General Conference by a vote of *two-thirds of its members* shall have power to increase or diminish the number or alter the boundaries of the several annual Conferences.

Clause 112. The General Conference may reverse any decision of the Board of Appeal by a *three-fourths majority* of those present and voting provided that the total number of those present and voting shall be not less than one-half of all the members reported elected.

### THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN CANADA

*Adopted 1893.*

Page 125. No change in the Basis of Constitution shall be considered unless a majority of each Order is present, and no change shall take place unless *unanimously adopted* by both houses or until affirmed by a *two-thirds of the Upper House* and a *two-thirds majority* of each Order of the House of Delegates, and in the latter case it shall *stand over for confirmation* till the next meeting of the Synod when it must be affirmed by *similar majorities*.