

party in this Province has been to promote temperance reform. I go back to the days of that great tribune of the people, George Brown. In the very first issue of the Daily Globe, away back on the first of October, 1853—the Globe had been issued previously as a weekly or tri-weekly—it then came out as a daily paper—George Brown set forth his policy, and one of the main planks was the prohibition of the liquor traffic. It is true that proposal was in advance of the times.

It is true that great constitutional issues arose which absorbed public thought and this issue fell into the background for the time being, but I want to draw your attention to this further fact, and now I am speaking particularly to my Liberal friends, that in the year 1894, when the Government of Sir Oliver Mowat was in power, when the question of the legislative power of the Province was being determined, Sir Oliver made this statement to the deputation interested in temperance reform which waited upon him: "If the decision of the Privy Council should be that the Province has the jurisdiction to pass a prohibitive liquor law as to sale, I will introduce such a bill in the following session, if I am then at the head of the Government. If the decision of the Privy Council is that the Province has jurisdiction to pass only a partial prohibitive liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitive bill as the decision will warrant, unless the partial prohibitive power is so limited as to be ineffective from a temperance standpoint."

We are promising to do no more than Sir Oliver Mowat promised eighteen years ago, and I want to express my confident belief to-day, that had Sir Oliver Mowat continued Premier he would have fulfilled that pledge and introduced the law, and if you would have followed Sir Oliver Mowat in advanced temperance legislation, I ask you to follow me to-day and my colleagues in the House in placing this important resolution on the statute books. (Applause.)

AN EXPLANATION.

I have been asked the question, "Why do you hold a series of public meetings throughout the Province to discuss political issues three years before an election; what is the explanation of this unusual proceeding?"

1. We believe that public life in this Province offers something vastly more important and inspiring than a scramble for office by the leaders of the political parties. It involves the application in legislation and administration of most important principles, vitally affecting the welfare of every citizen of the Province; (cheers) and the electors are entitled to receive at the hands of the public men of the Province the fullest possible