

(Ministerial applause.) Mr. Magwood said that the important questions brought up at municipal elections would distract the attention from the question at issue. Also on the ground that many persons assessed in different municipalities could vote more than once.

The intention there was, you see, in one form or another, that the question should be separated from municipal elections purely in order that it should not be mixed up with other questions. On the motion for the third reading Mr. McCleary moved an amendment that the vote be taken at the Provincial instead of the municipal elections, and in favor of that resolution the Opposition voted. (Ministerial applause.) They voted against it being held on a municipal election day. The Government supported it, on the ground that the plebiscite was a moral expression of opinion on an academic question; that it would only indicate the tone of public opinion; that it would not necessarily come into operation to create a law.

Should Stand Alone.

The position now is quite different. The bill submitted to this House, if approved of, does become law. We think that it should be submitted when the whole attention of the country can be given to the issue. (Ministerial applause.) As against this there are a few expressions of opinion. Some say we would get a fuller expression if the vote were held on municipal election day. That may or may not be the case. From inquiry I find that the vote on municipal election day is comparatively small. In Toronto at the last municipal election only about 40 per cent. voted for the candidates for the Mayoralty. The presumption or expectation is that you will get a larger vote, because the people who go out to vote, being on the ground, may at the same time vote for prohibition. Is it a fair way to deal with a great issue like this? Is it fair to assume that men take so little interest in a great moral issue (and it is that) that they need extra inducement to go out and vote and express their views? They are given no extra inducement, to vote for Aldermen, and so on, and yet here is one of the largest questions ever seriously before the House and the country, and some men say it is not large enough to stand alone, that it must be attached to the election of some Alderman or township Councillor, or somebody else, because it is not able to stand alone. I decline as a temperance man to be put in that position. If the question cannot