

temperance people required. But the temperance people are reasonable, and they look upon this as a step in the right direction. That is why I approve of this legislation. The voice of the people at large, both in Canada and The United States, to-day stands for prohibition. I regret that there is nothing that we can say in favour of whisky. I have travelled for the last forty years, and have seen many sad cases caused by whisky; but I have yet to see the first case of sadness caused by prohibition.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. WEBSTER: The people of Ontario a few weeks ago pronounced their opinion, by an overwhelming majority, in favour of temperance legislation. I am one of those who believe in democracy—that the voice of the people should be heard. The people have asked for this legislation. Let us show our willingness to give it. One honourable gentleman a few moments ago expressed regret that the workingman could not procure his ale or beer to take with his dinner. Let me say that for half the money that the liquor costs he can purchase a pint of milk.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: Buttermilk.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. WEBSTER: One does not have to go far to see how wine and beer licenses work out. Just across the river in Hull they tried out the wine and beer license, and with what result? The mayor says that on the 15th of November the municipality will go bone-dry. That is the kind of man who ought to be mayor. He has the people behind him, and he will be mayor again. Let us show our willingness to submit to the people; let us give them this Bill as it has been brought into the House.

Hon. L. G. POWER: Honourable gentlemen, it is not my intention to enter into the merits of this case, but I wish to make an observation or two on the line taken by certain honourable gentlemen in this House. Those honourable gentlemen, somewhat to my surprise, took the ground that the Senate should bow to the popular will, and told us that the action of the Senate last session would perhaps be found to be the first step towards the abolition of this House. I agree with the honourable gentleman from Middleton who said that we should do our duty courageously and firmly without regard to the consequences, and

I think that is what the Senate is here for. We are not here to be guided by what takes place in the Commons, or by what we may think is the popular feeling of the moment. One of the objects of having a second Chamber is that temporary popular feeling may not lead the country into error.

Speaking of the action of the Senate last session, an honourable gentleman suggested the danger of a conflict with the Commons. Does any honourable gentleman here really and sincerely believe that the action of the Senate last year, or the action proposed by the amendment now before the House, is going to lead to a conflict with the Commons? It is not, for honourable gentlemen know, or feel satisfied, that the members of the Commons last year really rejoiced at the action of the Senate.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Some Hon. SENATORS: No. no.

Hon. Mr. POWER: The members of the Commons held that the burden of responsibility had been taken off their shoulders, and, as a rule, were glad that the thing had been done. A timid policy is always a mistaken policy, in politics as in war; and while one honourable gentleman referred to the large majority in favour of prohibition shown by the recent referendum in the province of Ontario, I direct attention to the fact that while there was a very marked majority, there was a very large and considerable minority.

Hon. W. D. ROSS: It was not one-sided.

Hon. Mr. POWER: At any rate, there was a very considerable minority, and I believe that if it had not been for the woman vote the result of the referendum might have been different. Do not misunderstand me, honourable gentlemen: I am not finding any fault with the woman vote; but we have to consider that.

As I said, I do not propose to go into the merits of this Bill. I quite concur in what has been said by the honourable gentleman from Middleton, and I also agree with the view of the constitutional question taken by the honourable gentleman from Cobourg (Hon. Mr. Pringle).

On motion of Hon. Mr. Macdonell, the debate was adjourned.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

The Hon. the SPEAKER read a communication from the Governor General's Secretary announcing that His Excellency