

## PROHIBITION AND POLITICS.

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Hon. EDWARD BLAKE, after some preliminary remarks, at Aylmer, said :—

I desire, before entering upon a discussion of party political questions, to trouble you with a few words with reference to a question upon which I have been anxious for some time to say something, but that no favourable occasion arose. I do not say that this is a specially favourable opportunity for the purpose, because what I was anxious to find was an occasion upon which no topic of party controversy would arise. But I see such an opportunity is not likely to be found in view of the nearness of the Provincial election, and of the season of the year, and having seen that to be the case, and having found also that the Dominion Alliance had a few days ago stated what its programme and platform are, and recommended them for the adoption of those who are enrolled in its ranks, I have thought I would not lose the chance of speaking to my first audience after that time, and saying a few words to them upon

### THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

(Loud applause.) But I have to talk upon other topics, and that compels me to compress my remarks. There is no time to enlarge upon reasons or arguments. I must almost confine myself to stating facts and conclusions. This is not very satisfactory to me; perhaps will not be so to you. It may seem dogmatic; it may tend to some misconceptions; but it is inevitable under the circumstances. Why is it that I had desired to discuss this subject unconnected altogether with any discussion at that time of party political topics? It is in the interest of the cause itself on which I am about now to touch. This is

### NOT AT THIS TIME A PARTY QUESTION.

How do the political parties of Canada stand upon it? The Liberal party embraces, I have no doubt, the majority of the Temperance Reformers and Prohibitionists, and for that I refer you not merely to the strong and active temperance Reformers throughout the land, but to the Parliamentary record of the Liberal representatives at Ottawa. (Cheers.) I shall not go over the votes; I suppose they are familiar to you all. But although that is the position of the Liberal party in that regard, it still includes many