

may perhaps refer to Provincial as well as Dominion matters: the Extension of the Franchise to Women; Civil Service Reform — what specially is meant by this I have not observed any definite explanation; and “a national sentiment, a national literature, and in all matters of public policy our country first”—to which few of any party are opposed.

For carrying out the platform, the present announced policy, as set forth by the new organ, is, not to support candidates for the next Ontario Legislative Assembly nominated by either Conservatives or Reformers, even when the candidates so nominated announce themselves as favorable to one or more planks of their platform. The New Party are everywhere to select candidates of their own. They are told that the opinions of a candidate of any other party “cannot change either the constitution or the leadership of his party,” and that the duty of all friends of the New Party is to stand by their own platform, and their own candidate. Whether this policy will be carried out when the elections come on we shall see.

PROHIBITION

is made the most prominent at present of all the planks, and a chief objection made by the organ to the Reform party is, that that party is not, as a party, for Prohibition. I am not going to discuss Prohibition here. The Reform party consists both of Reformers who believe in Prohibition, and of Reformers who do not. And there are a multitude of the strongest reasons why, in the interest of Prohibition and good government, at the coming Provincial elections Reformers who are Prohibitionists should not consent to withdraw from the Reform party, or to withhold their votes from Reform candidates, as the organisers and leaders of this New Party urge on them to do.

First of all, Prohibition is not a matter with which the Ontario Assembly has to deal. It belongs to the Dominion Parliament. It is a Dominion issue, not a Provincial issue. No man who does not desire the defeat of the Reform Government of Ontario for other reasons than Prohibition can intelligently desire their defeat at the next General Election because of all the party not being Prohibitionists.

Then, it is perfectly certain that for the term which the new Provincial Assembly is to last the question is, not whether the Provincial Government shall be in the hands of the New Party or of Prohibitionists, but whether it shall be in the hands of Reformers or Conservatives, of one or the other. Let no Reformer permit