

to present them to the people. We are certainly of the opinion that this question is of sufficient magnitude and importance to demand the consideration of the electors of this country on a separate day. (Ministerial applause.) I cannot get away from that. Local option is on a separate day, though the vote is sometimes doubled with municipal elections. The Scott Act has a separate day. I was in the House of Commons when it became law. No one wanted it to be mixed up with municipal elections; everyone agreed that it should be held on a separate day, so far as I remember, and it was so. The plebiscite of 1898 was taken on a separate day, and I never heard that the temperance men wanted the plebiscite taken in 1898 to be taken on the day of the municipal elections. Indeed, in looking over the papers I find that the report of the Plebiscite Committee of the alliance asked two things: First, "that the basis of the vote be the franchise on which the next Parliament would be elected; second, that the issue of prohibition should be submitted separate from all other questions of public policy. Especially," the report says, "do we object to any method of raising revenue being joined with prohibition in the vote, as the problem of revenue has been, is and will continue to be a public question large and important enough to be dealt with by itself." (Ministerial applause.) You can only get the question separated from all other questions of public policy on a separate day. If you have it on municipal election day it is mixed up with municipal elections.

*Previous Views as to Date.*

The propriety of a vote on the question on municipal election day was discussed in this House in the Ontario plebiscite debates of 1893. Mr. Meredith, who was then leader of the Opposition in this House, said: Another objection to the bill was that, instead of submitting the question at the expense of the Province, it was proposed to interject it into the municipal politics of the country. Instead of parties dividing on local matters, the issue would be the question of prohibition, and municipal Councillors would be elected on the question as to whether or not they were for or against prohibition. Why should not the question be submitted at the Provincial election, at which were to be elected the men who, if they had the power, would pass a prohibitory law? Mr. Whitney argued that the question should not be submitted to the women entitled to vote at municipal elections. That would mix it up in another way.