

ADDRESS BY  
**MR. N. W. ROWELL, K. C.**

(Leader of the Opposition)

Delivered in the Ontario Legislature on April 3rd,  
1912, on moving the resolution for the  
“Abolition of the Bar.”

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**ABOLITION OF BAR.**

Mr. Speaker—In rising to move the resolution which stands in my name, I am conscious of the responsibility I assume in pressing upon the attention of the House and the country a proposal which directly or indirectly affects every home in the province, and will have a very vital bearing upon the social, moral and industrial welfare of the people of this province in the days that lie before us.

One of the significant signs of the times is the growing recognition by the people, not only of this country, but all the progressive countries in the world, of the great evils of the liquor traffic. At the recent International Congress held at The Hague, where representatives of the foremost countries in the world were present to consider the best methods for the suppression of the evils of the opium traffic, the Chairman of the Congress, Bishop Brent, in his closing address to the delegates, named three great evils confronting society, upon the suppression of which he believed all nations should agree. These three evils were: the opium trade, the liquor traffic, and the white slave traffic.

**A GROWING CONVICTION.**

Looking at the matter as it presents itself to-day, while in some quarters there may not be the same manifestations of enthusiasm as at certain times have marked temperance agitation, I believe that in this province, throughout this Dominion, and in all the English-speaking countries, there is a more intelligent, a deeper-set conviction of the evils of the liquor traffic than ever before; and a more resolute determination on the part of the best citizens to do their utmost to reduce to a minimum if they cannot entirely remove the evils of the traffic.