

**NOT NEEDED TO PREVENT REPEAL.**

The theory that the three-fifths requirement is needed to give permanence to local option by-laws is disproved by the effective test of experience. On January 2 last there were 134 municipalities in this Province where local option by-laws had been in force for three years or more and where, therefore, the question of repeal could be voted upon. In 76 of these the by-laws had been carried on the old majority plan and therefore could be repealed by a majority vote.

In these 134 places local option was so permanently established that only three repeal contests were brought on and none of the three was among the 76 that carried on a majority plan. In the three places voting the poll stood for local option 1,043 against 529.

The three-fifths requirement was not needed in any of the places in which it applied. It was not needed in any of the 76 that had been barred from its alleged benefits. It is not needed to prevent the bringing on of repeal votes. It is not needed to prevent repeal when a contest is brought on.

**If the popular vote ruled, 913 bars would have been closed in the last five years.**

**Because of the three-fifths handicap, 421 bars have, despite the popular vote against, been permitted to remain open.**

## **MR. ROWELL'S STATEMENT**

### **Social and Industrial Betterment.**

The evils of intemperance are so serious and so widespread that all concerned in the social, moral and industrial betterment of the people must be deeply interested in the question of how to put an end to these evils. We do not hesitate to affirm that present conditions are not satisfactory, that the present Government has not given adequate temperance legislation. All will admit that the question presents great practical difficulties, and there are marked differences of opinion even among those interested in the temperance cause as to the character of the legislation which would best meet the requirements of our Province and insure the permanent progress of temperance reform. But the difficulties of the problem increase rather than diminish the responsibility of our legislature.

As you are all aware, I have taken a deep interest in this question for many years, and since I became leader of the party I have had the benefit of many valuable suggestions as to the form which legislation should take.