

tion the presumption is reasonable that the increase in the registration is a matter of a very few hundred at the very most, even if it would amount up in the hundreds.

The Majority Rules.

The vote polled in 1898 was 426,976; one more than the half of that means prohibition, if recorded in favour of this act, provided that those on the other side do not poll a larger number of votes. We believe that on that basis we would get a law that could be enforced. We believe in the principle that the majority ought to rule, and the bill provides that it shall rule. (Ministerial applause.) We poll about 75 per cent. of the registered vote in the general elections. We are taking one-half of 75, or 37½ per cent. of the voters on the list. That means, as I said a few days ago, that if three out of eight voters on the list record themselves in favor of the prohibitory law it prevails. That is certainly as reasonable, as comprehensive, I was going to say as generous, as we can make it. (Ministerial applause.) It is said that only those in favor of the measure require to vote in this case. I do not know about that. I believe that those opposed to prohibition will vote. They have the privilege, and there is no reason why they should not vote. I saw an announcement in the papers the other day that it is their intention to vote. Their argument is that if the vote for prohibition is very large, and only a few straggling votes cast against it, the country will come to the conclusion that there is no anti-liquor sentiment. Prominent temperance men think it would be in the interests of a thorough test of the question if both sides will vote. It is possible that the other side will vote with greater energy than is expected at this moment, or is desired later on. I hope that this is not the case. If there be a sufficient number of votes for the measure, temperance men need not care if the votes on the other side be few or many.

As to the Date.

Another objection is that we have fixed on a special day. We have mentioned the 14th of October. We propose changing it to a day later in the year; early in November, or some convenient date when we believe that the means of transportation would be better than later on, and a sufficient time had elapsed after the holidays to enable those who have views on the subject