

every intelligent man, that the whole civilized world is thinking deeply upon this question of prohibition and is taking the most drastic measures regarding it. Very few of the civilized nations have not legislated on this question in a way which a decade of years ago would have been regarded as very radical indeed. Every province in Canada has pronounced upon the question. We have practically total prohibition in every province in Canada except Quebec, and there the little latitude which is given, we may safely say, is not inconsistent with a wholesome prohibition sentiment. That no Parliament in Canada could withstand the desire for legislation upon this subject is shown by the fact that every province has placed upon its statute-book a law for the purpose of giving effect to public sentiment. Parliament cannot withstand the public will in matters of this kind. The various members of the Parliament of Canada or of any legislature in the Dominion may not in their individual capacity be in favour of this class of legislation, but it is their duty to represent public sentiment, to give effect to the popular will, and I see no other way of giving effect to it than by enacting the legislation which we have introduced to-day.

It has been said by some honourable gentlemen that this legislation does not go far enough. Others have contended that it goes too far. The difficulty of course is to adopt a happy medium; but one can scarcely question the principle of this Parliament consulting the wishes of each province of the Dominion, and throwing upon the province the responsibility of deciding what is the will of the people within its boundaries. That expression of the public will having been given, and having been communicated by the province to the Dominion Government, this Government sets in motion the machinery provided by the measure which we are to-day placing on the statute-book. Or, to state the case perhaps better, we are simply enlarging the boundaries which for a generation or more had been fixed by the law of this country. It is too late for honourable gentlemen to discuss the wisdom or unwisdom of prohibition. It has come to stay, and no power can resist the tidal wave which has swept over not only the whole of Canada, but the whole continent and the whole civilized world. The Government recognizing this to be the case, sees no alternative, but must introduce the legislation which is now before us, to provide for en-

larging the boundaries of the Canada Temperance Act, so that each province may declare whether or not it is desirable and in accordance with the public will, to give effect to the legislation which is already on the statute book and is supplemented by the present Bill.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Honourable gentlemen, several honourable members of the House who have spoken on this question seem to misunderstand the nature of my motion. The honourable gentleman from Pictou (Hon. Mr. Tanner) seems to think that I am challenging a vote on the principle of this Bill. I am doing nothing of the kind. My purpose is that the question of the merits of the Bill should stand over until next session.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Will my honourable friend pardon me? My attention has been directed to an explanation which I omitted to make to the House, and which I should like to make now. Possibly my honourable friend may give some recognition to it. It is that it is not proposed by this legislation to repeal or in any way interfere with the Canada Temperance Act as we find it on the statute book to-day. There will be an alternative. The Canada Temperance Act may be put into force within the limited areas already provided by the law; or, if the province chooses, and so expresses itself by resolution of its legislative assembly, it can put the same legislation in force throughout the entire province. Thus the present Canada Temperance Act is not repealed nor in any way restricted.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Unfortunately I have not had time to look this matter up. Does the Canada Temperance Act as it stands to-day deal with the question of manufacture?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: As I read the Canada Temperance Act, one could not manufacture within an area for the purpose of violating the law in that area. He could manufacture for export outside of that area.

Hon. Mr. ROSS: He could make rum for the heathen.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes.

Hon. Mr. ROSS: Honourable gentlemen, any member of this House can vote for my motion without expressing himself on the merits or demerits of the Bill. It is merely a question of whether we have been treated fairly or unfairly, and whether