

## **A Personal Explanation**

Now, I want to be frank with this House and with the members of this House and therefore I say that, while I voted for the Liquor License Act which contained the three-fifth clause, I personally never favored the clause itself. We have party government in this country, for better or for worse. It seems the best system and perhaps the only system under which we can work out our affairs under the British Constitution, and under party government no man in any party can have his own absolute way upon every detail of every government measure. There must be some question of relative importance, there must be some spirit of compromise, there must in the framing of Government Legislation be some "come" and "go"—or we could never move in any direction, and so I accepted the Government Liquor Act as it is with the three-fifth clause, because, in my own opinion, viewed as a whole it was the most marked advance in temperance legislation this Province has had for many years. (Applause.)

There are fourteen clauses in it, to which no temperance man can object, and which every temperance man approves of, and one clause, and only one clause, the three-fifth clause, to which any temperance man can object—and upon the desirability of that clause equally good temperance men differ.

The Provincial Secretary says the three-fifth clause is on trial, and if time proves that there is no longer any necessity for that clause to give permanency to local option, then it will be for this House to consider the repeal of that clause.

## **License Law Better Enforced**

I believe Hon. Mr. Hanna will make local option a success by his vigorous and fearless enforcement of the law. That is his plain duty. He has expended in round numbers \$20,000 last year in his efforts to enforce the law—more money in one year for that purpose than the old Government expended in 30 years. The old Government wouldn't be a policeman, and, Sir, this Government are receiving credit for the better enforcement of the Liquor License Law and with that law well enforced many of the evils of the liq traffic disappear. But some honorable members upon the opposite side of the House say that the Liquor License Law is not enforced any better than it ever was. They are entitled to their opinion. I might get up and say it is better enforced.

Mr. CLARK (West Northumberland)—Then it would be a toss up between us.