

Who Led the Revolt?

The honorable gentleman was then in the House when the time for action came, and we now know from what we only suspected before, why that legislation was never brought down on the floor of this House. The hon. member for West Northumberland (Mr. Clark) stated the then leader of the Government would have brought down his temperance legislation, had there not been a revolt in his own ranks, and he was prevented carrying out his pledges.

Mr. CLARK (West Northumberland). That is right. (Applause.)

Mr. LUCAS. And my honorable friend from Northumberland can, if he sees fit, give us a little more information. He is now absolved from the secrets of caucus. I cannot give it. I can only give what rumor has said, and rumor says that the present honorable leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Mr. Graham, who occupied that seat last session, were the leaders in this revolt.

Mr. CLARK (West Northumberland). And I don't think you know it all.

Mr. LUCAS—I may not know it all, but I know enough. We all now know that the Honorable the Leader of the Opposition won't be baited into stating his position upon this public question. But we don't have to get inside the caucus room to find out where he stands. We have rumor as to the caucus and we know that at the Liberal Convention he and Mr. Graham were the leaders of the extreme liquor element. Referring to his attitude then the Executive of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance expressed by formal resolution its conviction and its idea and its opinion of the honorable gentlemen upon the temperance question when by formal resolution referring to that Convention, it said "At the dictation of Messrs. MacKay and Graham the Convention dispelled all hopes that the Ross Administration would ever fulfill its pledges to the temperance people of the Province of Ontario." (Applause.) And yet now he is an anti-three-fifth clause man but won't be baited as to where he is on local option. The whole public career of my honorable friend has been entirely opposed to advanced temperance legislation, and he must not be surprised if the country and this House are questioning the sincerity of his attitude, and surmising that it is not dictated by any desire to help temperance legislation but to throw into the arena the whole question in the hope that somehow, some way, somewhere he will gain some advantage by so doing. (Hear, hear.)