

that it is only this widely-diffused and strongly-felt public opinion which can be properly crystallized into law, and that premature attempts will be abortive failures. Thus conditions of opinion may exist at various epochs of progress under which, usefully, licenses may be required to sell under which high license may replace low license, under which restricted license may replace freer license, under which local and partial prohibition may replace high and restricted license, and under which general prohibition may replace local and partial prohibition. But in deciding on the legislation to be at any particular time adopted, we must determine whether the country is at that time

RIPE FOR THE LEGISLATION ;

whether it is reasonable to conclude that it will be enforced and maintained, else we hurt instead of helping the cause. Now, as to legislative and executive action, I am against the emasculation of the Temperance Act, which I believe to be in contemplation at this hour. (Cheers.) I am for the amendment of that Act in those details in which experience has shown defects, preventing a fair test of its principles. I believe it is the duty of the Government of the day, finding this law upon the Statute Book, to determine whether it shall be repealed or made effective ; I believe that if they do not choose to repeal it they are bound to make it effective, and if they neglect dealing with the case they neglect their plain and obvious duty. (Loud cheers.) I am for

A FAIR AND FULL TRIAL OF THE ACT

in the localities in which it is in force, with all the aid that executive action can properly afford. And here I may point out that the case Mr. Mowat states with reference to the Dominion functions is much stronger than he put it, because, if I rightly understand it, the Temperance Act itself contains a clause providing that the Collector of Inland Revenue, a Dominion officer, may bring prosecutions, and that it shall be the duty of the Collector of Inland Revenue to act on informations and bring these prosecutions. (Loud applause.) I am for putting down with a stern hand the dynamite and other outrages, and the terrorism which has disgraced some places in this connection. (Great cheering.) I am for or against the submission of the Act in new localities, according as there is or is not a fair prospect in the condition of local opinion that it will be reasonably efficacious. (Applause.) It is on this consideration that I myself would vote in case it were submitted in a county in which I had a vote. I am against the submission of the Act as a mere test of public opinion, by a vote