

Mr. FOSTER. Not all through it.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). That is the general law of the Province; there may be special cases, however. The difficulty in fixing the time during which liquors may be sold shows the utter futility of attempting to meet the wants of the people by this clause. What is one man's dinner hour is not another man's dinner hour. If a man was somewhat late to dinner he would be deprived of his grog, and thus the clause does not meet the necessities of the consumers of intoxicating liquors. I think absolute prohibition would conduce very much to the proper observance of the Sabbath, and would tend to lead people's minds in a proper direction. I move that the clause relating to Sunday selling be eliminated.

Mr. COURSOL. If this clause be adopted a large number of citizens, especially in Montreal, will be deprived of common rights which the people of other cities may enjoy. It is well known that a large number of families board permanently at the Windsor House, St. Lawrence Hall, and other Montreal hotels. At the first named, lunch is from 12:30 to 2 o'clock; dinner is not before 7 or 7:30 and is often not taken until 8:30; and thus, under the provisions of this clause the parties would be prevented from having their wine or what they wish. The clause should be extended to the meal hours of those hotels.

Mr. FOSTER. With regard to the hours of sale I hope there will be no change made, and that hope is joined in by many others. In the petition from the Archbishop and Bishop, the thirteenth point they make is this:

"That it may be expressly forbidden for all saloons, taverns, and restaurants to remain open, and for all licensed places to sell intoxicating liquor by retail, on Saturday after seven o'clock at night, or until five o'clock on Monday morning."

That is asked for by Quebec, and by a competent authority. It already prevails in Ontario, and no change is desired. With regard to Sunday sale, I would prefer to see total prohibition on the Sabbath. It would relieve the stomachs of many people who drink too much, and they would enjoy the liquor better on Monday. It would be, no doubt, some hardship on those accustomed to having drinks at their meals; but, on the other hand, if you once open the door, a great many will take advantage of that clause, and will importune the bar-keepers, and tempt them so much that they will actually sell to them during all hours of the day. But if you say there shall be no sale of liquor on Sunday, and you impose a heavy fine, and provide for the withdrawal of the license, the law will be observed. So I say I am in favor of closing up the saloons all day on Sunday. However, if the sense of the Committee is otherwise, I would restrict the sale to a certain number of hours.

Mr. GIROUARD (Jacques Cartier). I believe this clause will change a great deal the customs of the people of the Province of Quebec. In Ontario taverns are closed at seven on Saturdays, but in Quebec for many years the taverns have not been closed until twelve o'clock. I believe we should fix our law between these extremes, say nine or ten o'clock. Leave that as a matter for the police of municipal councils to deal with, even for Sunday. I do not think that this is altogether a matter of regulating the liquor traffic. It is more a matter of police, and the municipal authorities are very likely the best judges in this respect. If we do not leave it in the power of the authorities, we ought not to adopt the rule which prevails in Ontario, to which our people are unaccustomed. We have found our regulation in this respect in our Province no great grievance. I think that twelve o'clock is too late. A man has no business in a tavern after ten o'clock. The hour of seven o'clock was adopted in Ontario to prevent the laboring classes taking too much liquor on Saturday evenings, and this was supposed to be pay-day. But this custom has

changed; laborers and mechanics are now paid very often on Friday and Monday, and there is no reason why there should be so great an exception for Saturday. The laboring classes leave the factories about six o'clock, when they reach home it is almost seven, and it would then be impossible for them to get a drink on Saturday evening. Business men close at one o'clock, and have the whole afternoon during which to indulge in a little drink. I do not see why the common classes should not have a like advantage in this respect, until nine or ten o'clock. I would suggest ten o'clock; but if not accepted, the hour should not be fixed later than nine. I have not much to say about Sundays. We have been accustomed in Quebec to have the taverns closed on Sunday; but this Saturday night close would be a great change.

Mr. FISHER. I think that the objections of the last speaker have been very fully met by the petition to which the hon. member for King's (Mr. Foster) alluded. It was signed and sent here by representatives of the Province of Quebec, and certainly it ought to bear weight. It is true that heretofore Quebec people have been able to obtain liquor up to twelve o'clock on Saturday night—but Saturday as pay-day has been to a great extent done away with—but that is not the only reason why those who wish to spend their evenings in taverns ought to be defended from this temptation on Saturdays more than on other evenings. Sunday following Saturday, and people being then at leisure, many are tempted to indulge in more liquor on Saturday night than any other night during the week. I think this is a very wise defensive proposition, the taverns should be closed earlier on Saturdays than any other nights. The sale of liquors in Quebec on Sunday is forbidden, and it is very unfair that we should be now asked to pass a law permitting Sunday selling. The question of hours gives great difficulty, and I am quite sure that these hours would lead to almost continuous selling on Sunday. If, on the other hand, Sunday selling were absolutely forbidden, the person in charge of that bar would have an absolute holiday and be able to enjoy his rest, and not be tempted to break the law, as would be the case under this Act. It is true that liquor is only proposed to be sold to *bona fide* guests who reside or board in the house, but we can easily understand that in many cases people would make arrangements to spend this day practically drinking in these places in clubs, and the result would be, instead of on Monday there being comparatively little drinking, there would be more on it, probably, than on any other day of the week. For all these reasons, the difficulty of closing at suitable hours, &c., it will be very undesirable to pass the clause as it stands. I trust that, at any rate, the suggestion of the hon. member for Durham, which seems acceptable to the hon. member for Simcoe, that liquor be not allowed to be drunk in private rooms, will be adopted.

Mr. FOSTER. To clear up a point, I will read the Quebec Sunday closing provision:

"The present Act shall not apply, in any case, to keepers of hotels and houses for the lodging and entertainment of travellers, &c., who are hereby authorized to sell and supply the same at every hour or every day of the year, Sundays included, to their *bona fide* boarders or to travellers sojourning at such hotels; but, on Sundays, not elsewhere than in the rooms of such boarders or travellers, or the dining-rooms of such hotels."

Mr. CAMERON (Victoria). That is a sensible and reasonable law; and, if embodied in this Bill, it will be just and right. I do not believe in the doctrine that, if I happen to arrive at an hotel on Sunday, I shall not be allowed to drink in the hotel during that day. I do not believe in that kind of social tyranny. If we are to have total prohibition, say so; but, otherwise, if I want a bottle of wine on Sunday, why should I not then have it as well as on any other day. This is all cant, which we have heard on some occasions—I will not say to-night—and hypocrisy, from peo-