

kept in session another week. He thought it a matter in which they might congratulate themselves that every measure which had been sent from this House to the Commons had been adopted by the latter without amendment, except in one instance in which a slight amendment was made.

Hon. Mr. ALEXANDER said he was quite ready to sit a fortnight here if necessary. (A laugh)

#### PROHIBITION.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL, on rising to speak to the order for the consideration of the report of the Select Committee on the petitions for the passing of a prohibitory liquor law, said it was his desire to have brought fully before the House the matters connected with this report, the subject of which was the liquor traffic; but he felt at this advanced stage of the session, in view of the pressing importance of the measures now awaiting their consideration, it would be unwise for him to encroach upon the time of the House with any remarks upon the question generally. It would be noted that the Committee had carefully avoided committing the House to any expression of opinion that would render debate necessary at this time. They had simply committed the House to this statement—that the time had arrived when the earnest attention of the Government and Legislature should be given to this important subject, with the view of discovering and applying the best remedy to the gigantic evils connected with the liquor traffic, which were afflicting the country, and that steps should be taken to obtain such official information as was necessary to the guidance of the House in dealing with this question. Those were the only two points brought out in the report. The remainder of the report was nothing more than a statement of facts, declaring to the House what the petitioners had asked for. They would find that certain very important statements were made there, and, what was also regarded as highly important, that the number of persons petitioning for the passage of a prohibitory liquor law was something enormous and unprecedented. Out of our limited population of about four millions petitions for such a law had been received from about half a million. He thought this indicated a very strong feeling with regard to the subject throughout the country, and some action on the part of the Legislature was demanded. He did not attach much weight to the objection

to those petitions, that they were signed by women and children as well as by men, for he held that women and children were the greatest sufferers from intemperance. In addition to the petitions received up to the time of the adoption of this report by the Committee, others had been received since, from 147 municipalities. The hon. gentleman went on to analyse portions of the report. He said it was time the House should be in possession of full returns to prove the accuracy or inaccuracy of the statements made in the petitions and the report thereon. It was asserted, emphatically, that about three-fourths of the crimes of the country was connected with intemperance, and certainly there was abundant evidence in the statistics, more especially of Great Britain, to show this was actually the case there. Where the consumption of spirits had decreased, crime had decreased in an equal ratio. Those statements also showed that where population had increased at the rate of one and a fraction per cent, crime had increased four times that amount—an alarming fact, truly. When the House was asked to commit itself only to a demand for this information, he trusted his motion for the adoption of the report, and the address to His Excellency would encounter no opposition. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. FLINT, in seconding the motion, gave statistics with regard to the traffic on liquor in the Dominion. He estimated the quantity of liquor—including that made by adulteration—consumed in the country last year, at ten gallons for every man, woman, and child in it, and the loss to the country by the traffic, including the value of the grain used in the manufacture of liquor, at \$57,000,000 and said that for this large sum we only received about \$5,000,000 in return. He held that if the liquor traffic were done away with, we could in ten years pay off our national debt, and also carry on the government of the country, and that in twenty years we could make this country second to none other in the world for its net work of railways, canals and telegraphs.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST said that the report contained some recommendations which he could not object to, but one recommendation involved an expenditure of money, and that was something this House had nothing to do with. With reference to some remarks of the Hon. Mr. Flint, he said that scientific men had come to the conclusion that grain which had been used for distilling was much better for feeding cattle than the