

taking into consideration the fact that it is the result of conscientious and intelligent labor, and that it embodies in it principles which are of the greatest importance to this Dominion, I think the Bill should pass as it is. There is no doubt that intemperance is one of the greatest evils of this country, and I think it is our duty to adopt every means at our command to mitigate that evil. I find several clauses in this Bill which will have that tendency. For instance, there is the clause which provides that no liquor shall be sold in stores where other merchandise is offered for sale. Statistics prove that the custom of combining the groceries and liquor trade, is one of the main causes of intemperate habits, especially amongst women, for many persons who go to such a store to purchase necessaries of life are tempted to buy liquors.

There is also the important provision which restricts the number of licenses in proportion to the population. Knowing the great care and anxiety with which this Bill has been prepared by some of the ablest and most experienced members of the Commons, and feeling that under the circumstances we cannot remain without legislation of some kind in this direction, I consider it my duty to vote for this Bill as a tentative measure, and I hope it will pass.

HON. MR. PAQUET—I leave to the eminent lawyers who are members of this body the consideration of the constitutional question, and to decide whether or not we have jurisdiction, but from a humanitarian point of view, when we reflect upon the incalculable evils that result from drunkenness, of that social plague which robs England alone of 75,000 souls annually, besides sowing the seeds of innumerable diseases which the physician should desire to prevent, I am in favor of a measure as restrictive as possible. I admit unreservedly the propriety, the necessity of effective legislation to combat such an evil, but I protest with all my force against the manner in which this House is called upon to adopt a measure of such importance when it has only now been distributed. We have had time, it is true, to examine the Bill, such as it was when it was reported by the Committee to the House of Commons; but it has been considerably amended, and these amend-

ments we have not had time to examine. I have the greatest confidence in the patriotism and bright intelligence of the hon. gentlemen of the Commons, but we have a duty to discharge towards society, and the hasty manner in which we are asked to pass this measure renders it absolutely impossible to give it the attention which it merits. If we remain in session longer, or if we postpone the measure until next session according to the notice given by the hon. member from Ottawa, (Mr. Scott), well and good: but to give our sanction to such a measure, under such circumstances is something which I have the honor respectfully but firmly to oppose.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—There is great force in the remark which my hon. friend has made with reference to the late period of the session at which this Bill appears before us, but that is unavoidable. Everyone who has had any parliamentary experience knows that it is almost inevitable that the introduction of some important bill is delayed till towards the end of the session. I can only trust to the forbearance of hon. gentlemen to take the measure as it is before them, and pardon its not being printed in French as we would desire to have it, and as it would have been if that could possibly have been done. If hon. gentlemen desire it, we shall remain here two or three days longer. There is no necessity to prorogue to-morrow, notwithstanding what has passed in the other House. Then, as regards the remarks made by the hon. member from Prince Edward Island, he must bear in mind that we cannot go beyond the law. If the law is really as this Bill pre-supposes it to be, and as there appears to be a general consensus of opinion in the other House—

HON. MR. POWER—Oh no!

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I do not think that even the leader of the Opposition expressed an opinion to the contrary.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—There was an expression of opinion but no motion.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—There is a very general expression of