

law does not give the Local Legislatures the power to prevent persons becoming inn-keepers, which is as free to any person to enter into as to become merchants; but if for the purpose of raising a revenue the Provincial Legislature thought it necessary to put on a license fee or tax they would be at liberty to do so. The general power of Government and the power to regulate Trade and Commerce is vested by the Confederation Act in the Parliament of the Dominion, and I hope that parliament will do away with the centralization of power on the officers appointed by the Government of Ontario, I fear for political purposes, and will restore to the municipalities the power of regulating tavern licenses within their own counties. They are the best judges as to what is required in their localities, and they should have the power either of prohibiting taverns altogether or of limiting the number as they may think best; and in my opinion any license fee should be paid into the revenue of the municipalities less a moderate charge by the Government to defray the expenses of management. (Loud cheers.)

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