

houses in every city. I believe they are just as important for the purpose of the protection of the revenue and reducing even the cost of collecting revenues, because almost every private warehouse now has a special officer, whereas three officers could attend to the Queen's largest warehouse where at the present we have so many. That alone would be a very great saving to the country, and it would also be such a protection that instead of the liquor trade to-day being looked upon as a trade to be shunned from the very fact that I do not know where, and I don't know anybody who does know where you can get a house that you can depend on to get pure liquor as it is branded. I do not find any fault with the liquor dealers, because the tariff for the last twenty years has been compelling those men to infuse alcohol into their liquors.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN — Water, you mean.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—Alcohol; the duty on alcohol is so arranged that by infusing it into other liquors they make a profit. They are compelled to do it, and the consequence is, instead of drinking good wholesome liquors, the temperance people tell us, and very properly, that we are drinking liquors made from alcohol. There is some truth in it, but it is not the people's fault; it is the fault of the tariff and the temperance people, who urged it on.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—What kind of spirituous liquor would it be that would not contain alcohol?

Hon. Mr. DEVER—Commercial alcohol—spirit of wine—is made from raw grain, or from potatoes and other substances of that kind. Other spirit, such as brandy, is distilled from the wines of France. That is the difference. Then, again, there are the Scotch whiskies which are good liquors, liquors that the Prince of Wales might drink, and very properly; that liquor is made from pure picked malt, barley, manufactured into almost crystallized sugar before it is put into the still and liquor made of it. The temperance people think that the consumption of liquor will be reduced. I think it would be very wrong, for if we take liquor out of the commerce of the world, commerce will become very much impaired.

Instead of the production of liquor being reduced, as some hon. gentleman said the other night, it is not reduced but simply changed. The hon. gentleman will see that in 1893 alone, the world's production of ale, or wine produced from barley malt, was four billions five hundred million gallons, manufactured from 7,270,000 tons of malt, and 82,000 tons of hops.

An hon. MEMBER—No.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—You may call it beer if you like. It contains the same quantity of proof spirit as the light wines of Germany and France. I say in consequence of the enormous duty put on spirit, people who would use these articles are driven from them, and are compelled to drink it—and the supply is increasing—under the name and form of barley wine, or ale. Now I do not wonder at that, because alcohol is only worth forty cents a gallon and has to pay in the neighbourhood of four dollars a gallon duty. If a man finds that out, he is not going to drink an inferior spirit that has to pay a duty of four dollars when he can get beer containing all the alcohol he wishes to drink at a very low rate, and consequently in the schedules the quantity of spirit is being reduced apparently, but it is being supplied by the extra quantity of ale manufactured and used. In 1893—I have the return in my office—there was manufactured four billions five hundred million gallons of ale, and I believe this year's manufacture will be much more; consequently the temperance people are not doing so much as they think. They are simply displacing one liquor and substituting for it another, that is all.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

Under suspension of the rules the bill then passed through its final stages.

#### NORTH-WEST IRRIGATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

##### AMENDMENT ABANDONED.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—In reference to Bill (146) "An Act to amend and consolidate the North-west Irrigation Acts of 1894 and 1895," I have seen the hon. senator from Calgary and told him that the Commons would not accept that amendment as to the rates, and he told me that he would not