

have the Commissioners in any way dependent for their salaries upon the results of the license fund. I believe that whether the license fund be large or small, these men should be paid, as the public is willing to pay those who perform public service. This Bill was reported from the Committee, and though it is true that I took the responsibility of adopting it; still, as I stated, my adoption of it was subject to the full consideration of it by both sides of the House. It will not come in force until the 1st of January next, and by the next Session the Government will be prepared with a measure for the reasonable remuneration of the Commissioners. Whether that measure will make the license fund a Dominion fund, against which will be charged the expenses or not, I am not prepared to say.

Mr. BLAKE. In that case would it not be better not to include the provision proposed by the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy).

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We wish to provide for this fund now.

Mr. McCARTHY. What I understand is this, that the payment of the Commissioners and the Inspectors is not dependent on the amount they collect. Their remuneration will be a fixed sum, and what they collect will go towards it; but if there is any deficiency, it will be made up. But the mischief the hon. gentleman speaks of is to be avoided.

On section 65,

Mr. McCARTHY. This is a new provision: that during meal hour on Sunday liquors may be sold to be used at table, but not otherwise. The clause states from 12 to 2 o'clock p.m. and from 5.30 to 6.30 o'clock p.m. I should suggest that it be left to the municipality to fix the hours, or else from 1.30 to 3 p.m. and from 5.30 to 7 p.m.

Mr. FOSTER. On this question I do not think there is one on either side who believes the implications and allegations which have been so freely made about my position with regard to the matter. The statement was made by Mr. Hodge that in Ontario saloon-keepers were obliged by law to furnish their guests with liquors at any hour of the day between 7 p.m. Saturday and 6 a.m. Monday. I saw his statement shortly before I went into the Committee, before which I presented the opinions of the Alliance. My own observations in Ontario led me to the conclusion that on Sundays, in the principal hotels, there is a constant supply of liquor at least to guests. When I went into the Committee, the Chairman spoke about this matter of restriction. There was certainly no idea by any hon. member of the Committee, certainly not by myself, that there was to be any provision for the indiscriminate sale of liquors on Sunday. The only sale of liquor talked about was to *bona fide* guests and lodgers. In that Committee, I stated my preference decidedly to having no liquors sold, even for that purpose on Sunday, as I thought it would not be a great hardship for the guests to supply themselves on Saturday night. Then came the option as to whether there should be sale on all hours of Sunday to *bona fide* guests and lodgers, or for a restricted number of hours; and as between those two, I chose to have it restricted to three hours, rather than have it spread over the day, and this I spoke about as a step in the right direction. That is exactly my position on the question. With reference to newspapers who say this and that about me in connection with this matter, I have nothing to say in this House, but I thought it necessary to make this simple explanation of my position.

Mr. CURRAN. I think this clause makes rather a sweeping change in the law of the Province of Quebec. There for some time the hour for closing on Saturday night was eleven o'clock, but it was subsequently extended to twelve o'clock, and all the year the hour fixed for closing hotels, and bars generally, is twelve o'clock at night. Now, this clause compels all bars to close at seven o'clock in Quebec

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as well as elsewhere. I do not doubt that a great deal of good will be effected closing the bars earlier on Saturday night, but I think it should be left to the City Councils to determine the hour at which drinking-places shall be closed on Saturday night.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman who suggested some changes in this proviso, spoke of drink being sold to *bona fide* guests to be used at table. The clause is more extensive, it is to be drunk or used in their private rooms or at the table. Now, I believe this law is extensively evaded as it stands. I must confess I have some doubts as to the consequences of the provision which the hon. gentleman proposes. I believe the result will be that in many places you will have some *bona fide* guests or lodgers, who is a *bona fide* guest or lodger for the purpose of having his private room turned into a bar room.

Mr. McCARTHY. I agree with the hon. gentleman and we will strike out private room.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I think if this clause were made so that the sale of liquors on Sundays in hotels were confined to meal hours and to meals alone, the clause would be better than it is. But the second proviso I hope will be struck out altogether—that is, the one that relates to the sale of liquor at any time on Sunday at railway stations. We had a debate here one night concerning the sale of liquors at some railway station where the trains stopped over the whole of Sunday, and the passengers had nothing to do but to loaf around the railway station and drink all the time. Apart from that it is most desirable that the sale of liquor at railway stations should be prohibited altogether. It is a cause of annoyance to respectable passengers and the cause of serious risk and danger to the service of the railway.

Mr. BLAKE. It is a fact that some years ago the Grand Trunk Railway Company paid £5,000 to lessees of the stations on their line who had the right to sell intoxicating liquors in them, in order to curtail that practice in the stations on the line. There is no doubt that where liquor is sold in railway stations and when conductors and engineers and brakemen come in on cold nights, they are subjected to a very strong temptation to drink; and I really think that if the travelling public on the whole would exercise a little self-denial and consent to the abolition of bars at railway stations, they would much conduce to their own safety and to the benefit of the railway employes.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We must remember this clause only applies to Sundays. I would have considerable objection to the suggestion of the hon. member for Cardwell if it applied to the whole week, because people going into a station for dinner or supper might like to have a glass of beer. But we ought to have as little Sunday traffic as possible. In regard to the time for sale on Sunday in the hotels, I really think the proposition of my hon. friend is a good one. I do not think it is advisable that people in a house who, in order to have what they want to drink on Sunday, should be obliged to fill their rooms with it on Saturday night. Whatever the law is, we know, as a matter of fact, when persons are traveling, liquors are used during the whole day, and I believe that respectable hotel-keepers desire to stop that, and to meet only the reasonable wants of their guests; and if this clause is confined to the two periods mentioned by my hon. friend, with the further limitation that it shall only be at table meals, I think the case will be met. It is suggested that liquor should be allowed to be sold from 1 until 3 o'clock, and from 5.30 to 7 o'clock, which would cover the meal hours at the various city and country hotels, and during all the intervening period the bar should be absolutely closed.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). The clause should be struck out. Let liquor be totally prohibited on Sunday, as it now is in New Brunswick.