

order to magnify the importance of the positions they fill, and for which they are paid, exaggerate any legislation that in any way bears upon the corporations they are supposed to represent. That is why this Bill is in the unfortunate condition it is now. It was proved clearly in evidence that the sympathy of the whole labouring element, over one hundred thousand voters of this country, desired that this Bill should be passed by the parliament of Canada because they desired uniform legislation throughout the Dominion. It was proved that the societies which the local legislatures had organized nominally as local organizations were really incorporated companies. Dr. Ruddick, dairy and cold storage commissioner, gave evidence in which he showed that dairy associations, cheese associations, and other organizations are organized under the Joint Stock Companies Act, and except in the province of Quebec, where the legislation has been had recently, no law has been passed that fairly meets the sympathy and views of the large body of people behind this legislation. It was an unusual course to send this Bill to the Committee of Banking and Commerce. It was a public Bill, and I had a right to move it to Committee of the Whole House, and the committee unprejudiced, and without hearing outsiders, would be entitled to consider the Bill and if in their judgment it was worth being passed, they could pass it; but when it went to the committee there was an organized opposition to it, and in a thin committee consisting of 17 out of the large Committee on Banking and Commerce, the Bill was thrown out by a majority of one. It is contrary to the rules of the House to say what occurred in the committee, more than in a general way that I have indicated. I think parliament will make a very great mistake if they do not give the parties seeking this legislation an opportunity to secure organization under it. My strong reason for supporting the Bill is this; that it encourages thrift and economy among a class of people that ought to be encouraged in those particular lines. I say further, that in passing this Bill we take nothing from the provincial legislatures. There are many subjects under the British

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

North America Act that the local and the federal authorities have in common, where a rivalry may exist as to which body will do the more good, and this is one of those particular Bills. If when a private Bill comes before this Chamber, the Senate is satisfied that it is an encroachment on the powers of the provinces, we give it a very searching inquiry, because if you take anything from the provinces you have taken all there is in that Bill. But if you take this Bill from the provinces you do not rob them of anything, because they have a right to legislate just as freely as we have. I may mention an illustration of that, a subject that under the British North America Act many persons maintained was exclusively under the authority of the local legislatures, and that is the Canadian Temperance Act which I had passed thirty years ago. It was declared by the courts of this country to be ultra vires of this parliament. It went to the Privy Council, and it was there decided that it was quite competent for the parliament of Canada to pass that Act. My hon. friend beside me says it did no good. It was an educator at the time it was passed. It was taken up and adopted at the time in a very large number of communities in this country. The government which succeeded the government that passed the Bill was not favourable to the Act, and, consequently, although the Act provided for an executive officer to put it in force, no executive officer was appointed or was allowed to undertake that duty. Consequently, when the Act was discredited to that extent that there was no executive officer behind it, and no private individual cared to become a public prosecutor, the Act failed except where it was taken up by the community, as in some of the maritime provinces, where the Act has been in force for the last 25 years. After the education that was received by the passage of the Act, the provincial authorities began to agitate for the adoption of local option, and we find that in recent years, generally over this whole Dominion, local option laws have been passed from time to time which are far more stringent than the Canada Temperance Act was. I merely mention that to show that the fact of our