

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—The Bill will have to be amended next year under any circumstances.

HON. MR. DEVER—Before the Bill is read the third time I wish to put myself right on this matter. I do not profess to know anything at all as to the question of jurisdiction, but I certainly like the principle of the Bill, though I would not vote for it if it were not for the fact that it is not coming into force until may 1884, and in the interim we will have an opportunity of making such amendments as may be considered necessary.

HON. MR. PLUMB—I regret very much, and I suppose that every member of this House regrets that we are called upon to legislate upon so important a question as this at so late a period of the session. Undoubtedly there are weighty reasons for the delay, but I cannot help saying that a responsibility is thrown upon us which I think ought not to be thrown upon this House on such short notice. I believe that the Bill is in the interest of public morals; that it has been carefully drawn, and it is utterly impossible that we could deal with it in detail, and of the two evils, rejecting it, or taking it as it stands, after much consideration and with a good deal of anxiety in coming to the conclusion, I have decided, as far as I am concerned, to vote for the Bill as a whole, except with this amendment which I now propose:—

Provided that when under colour of any Provincial Law there are at the time of the passing of this Act more Licenses issued, than by the limit provided by this Act is permitted, the same number of Licenses may be issued until the 1st day of May, 1886, the limit however not to exceed one for every four hundred beyond one thousand of the population.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I believe there is a great objection to this amendment, and if it was carried out in the Province of Quebec there would be a door opened for the issuing of more licenses than are now granted. I do not think there are more licenses issued at present in that Province than one in every 600, and therefore this amendment would hardly be in keeping with a measure which has for its avowed object the im-

proving of the morals of the people. For my own part I look upon the whole Bill as being of rather an injurious character.

HON. MR. PLUMB—If there is any serious objection to the amendment I certainly shall not press it at this time, and with the permission of the House I shall withdraw it.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—I do not wish hon. gentlemen to remain under the misapprehension which may have been created by the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Delanaudiere (Mr. Bellerose), as to the number of licenses issued in the Province of Quebec. I would state, for the information of the House, that by the statistics of the last census the number of taverns and stores in the larger centres of population such as Montreal and Quebec, will be very largely reduced. I would also mention that there is a clause which recognizes the right of the municipal councils to prohibit entirely the traffic in liquor.

The amendment was, with the consent of the House, withdrawn.

The Bill was then read the third time and passed on a division.

The Senate adjourned at 2.20 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Friday, May 25th, 1883

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock p.m.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE SUPPLY BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill (128), "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial years ending respectively the 30th June, 1883, and the 30th June, 1884, and for other purposes relating to the public service," was introduced and read the first time.