

regulating and determining within a municipality the sale of liquors. The maxim *delegatus non potest delegare* was distinctly relied upon by the opponents of the measure, but the Judicial Committee emphatically laid down that such an objection is founded on an entire misconception of the true character and position of the provincial legislatures. Within the limits of its constitutional powers "the local legislature is supreme and has the same authority as the Imperial Parliament or the Parliament of the Dominion would have had under the circumstances to confide to a municipal institution or body of its own creation, authority to make by-laws or resolutions as to subjects specified in the enactment, and with the object of carrying the enactment into operation and effect." Such an authority is, in their opinion, "ancillary to legislation, and without it an attempt to provide for varying details and machinery to carry them out might become oppressive or absolutely fail." A legislature in committing important regulations to agents or delegates it is decisively stated, does not by any means efface itself; for "it retains its powers intact, and can, whenever it pleases, destroy the agency it has created, and set up another, or take the matter directly into its own hands," and how far it "shall seek the aid of subordinate agencies and how long it shall continue them, are matters for each legislature, and not for Courts of law to decide."

*General Remarks on the Municipal System.*—The municipal system on the whole is creditable to the people of Canada. It has its weaknesses owing in some measure to the disinclination of leading citizens, especially in the cities and large towns, to give up much of their time to municipal duties, although every person is so deeply interested in their efficient and honest performance. Jobbery and corruption are, however, not conspicuous characteristics of municipal organizations in the provinces; and we have happily no examples in our history at all inviting comparison with the utter baseness of the Tweed ring in New York. In the rural municipalities of Ontario there is a greater readiness than in the large cities to serve in the municipal councils, and as I have already shown those bodies have given not a