

not strong enough for some people, and it is too strong for others; the consequence is that there is a great desire to have this question settled, both on the part of those in favor of high license and on the part of those strictly temperance people who would like to see prohibition established, even unqualified by permit. There is a great deal to be said in favor of settling this question rapidly. In the first place, we can grow in the North-West the finest barley that ever rewarded farmer's toil, and beer and whiskey are both brought in from outside. Over 7,000 gallons of whiskey was brought in last year by permit, yielding a revenue of over \$3,000 from permits; and yet the amount of whiskey brought in contraband from Montana Colonel Herchmer will tell you, is simply incalculable. Parties bring it in, cache it two miles from the town, and on moonlight nights go out and bring it in in small quantities. In this way a large amount of money is being sent out of the territory, while beer is being brought in and drunk which we could manufacture there. Again, we had manufactories of what is called Moose Jaw beer, a kind of beer made from hops, without malt in it. The four per cent. beer coming from Winnipeg has shut all these up. Mr. Allen, the son of a Toronto brewer, had \$10,000 or \$12,000 invested in a brewery at Moose Jaw, and this man has been ruined by this four per cent. beer coming in. Now, what is to be done? There is a great desire on the part of many people for a plebiscite, but a plebiscite is not known to the British constitution, and it might be a doubtful way of settling this matter. Let me tell you that Mr. Bliss, who is at the head of one of the temperance organisations, visited the North-West last summer, and stopped at Medicine Hat, Calgary, and other places; and after returning to Winnipeg he issued a pronouncement in which he said that it was of vital importance that the liquor question should be settled in the North-West Territory, and that the morals of the community required that it should be settled—how? By prohibition? No, but by high license. This Mr. Bliss will, no doubt, be known to my hon. friend from Norfolk. The Legislative Assembly proposed themselves to take the opinion of the people on the subject, and to pay the cost of doing so out of their own funds; but the judges whom they consulted told them that would be *ultra vires*. Then they passed this resolution:

“That, in the opinion of this Assembly, a vote of the Territories on the question of license *vs.* prohibition should immediately be taken.

“That in the event of provision for the taking of such vote not being made by the Dominion authorities at the next Session of the Dominion