

the rank and file of the voters of this country who have control over this House and the Government of this country should favour this resolution. Another significant circumstance is that the Grand Trunk Railway Company, one of the great railroad corporations of this country, use their best endeavours in favour of temperance among their employees; and I think I am right in saying that they have absolutely commanded that they shall not drink. I have no doubt that this great corporation have at heart the well-being of their employees. But I do not think I am unjust in saying that their chief reason in enforcing this abstinence from drink is the reason that appeals to their own pocket, in consequence of their finding that it renders the workpeople whom they employ, more efficient. Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to detain you longer. I will merely say, before closing, that although this House may treat this question with comparative indifference, although possibly it may be dismissed with a sneer and a laugh and that a large number of people throughout the country may think that those who have brought this question before the House have been premature and unjustified in so doing, I think there is a sentiment throughout the country which justifies us in the action we have taken. I believe that if not now, at all events at no distant day, that sentiment will press itself so strongly that the representatives of the people in this House will be forced, if they do not do it willingly, to take cognizance of and to discuss and ventilate most thoroughly some such proposition as that which you have now before you. If this discussion does not thoroughly ventilate the question, if the hon. members of this House do not thoroughly believe that it is in the interests of the country that such a resolution should pass, I do not wish them to vote for it; but I think it is time for them to discuss it, I think it is time for them to turn their attention to it, to review it and lay it bare before the whole country, to its very bottom, so that the people throughout the country who have not turned their attention in this direction may be induced to do so, and to judge this question according to its merits. I do not ask, and I do not hope, that we shall obtain any catch vote here to-night which might perhaps lead the country to believe that this proposition was universally accepted. I trust hon. gentlemen in this House will vote upon this question as they think their constituents would wish them to vote. It is only in that way we can obtain some opinion of the real sentiments of the people on this question throughout the country, and I believe that while we have in view the practical enactment of such a law as is pointed to in this resolution, one of the greatest inducements to the mover and myself in bringing this resolution forward, was to test the opinion of this House and the country. If that test is successful, and we find that we carry this resolution, I can promise hon. gentlemen, and the people throughout the country at large, that principle will be put into practice just so soon as we shall be able to carry it through; but, unfortunately, this Session has already advanced so far that probably we may not be able to do anything effective this Session. If, however, we obtain the endorsement of the principle, we shall be well satisfied with our work this year, and trust to a future Session to accomplish the practical part of it. Before closing, I have one more duty to perform which is at the same time a great pleasure, and that is to publicly acknowledge the kindness of those ladies of Ontario who, a few days ago, sent to the mover and myself an evidence of their earnest sympathy and encouragement in the work we are doing. Knowing the principles of the hon. leader of this House, knowing that at no distant day in the future, those ladies will probably have a voice in the election of members to this House and the Government of the country, I think it is a most decided encouragement to my hon. friend and myself to believe that if the House is not

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ready to pass the Resolution we have now before us, at all events, at no distant day, those ladies will force this House to do it; and with the expression of the confidence and the hope that we may succeed, I take my seat.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. After the able manner in which this question has been discussed, it may seem out of place for me to detain the House—

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. As it is now eleven o'clock and we sat very late this morning and will have to sit most likely very late to-morrow and the next night, it would perhaps be better if the hon. gentleman would not begin his speech now, but move the adjournment of the debate, so that on Wednesday next it will be the first order in Public Bills and he will have the first place in the discussion.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I do not intend to occupy the House for more than ten minutes at the outside, and do not feel anxious to speak if the hon. gentleman wishes the House to adjourn.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I would suggest that the hon. gentleman move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. BERGIN. I beg to move that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. FISHER. If the hon. leader of the Government will promise that the Government will not take next Wednesday, I will be very glad to support this motion; otherwise, I must oppose it.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETIES AND LOAN AND SAVINGS COMPANIES.

Mr. CAMERON (Victoria). Before the next order is proceeded with, I would ask, with the permission of the House, that the last order on the list of Public Bills and Orders be allowed to have its second reading. The Bill is a matter of very great public importance, affecting building societies' securities, and if not read a second time to-night, it cannot be referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. It is a Bill from the Senate, which has been fully discussed there. I move, with the permission of the House, that Bill (No. 122) to amend the Acts 40 Victoria, chapter 49, and 45 Victoria, chapter 24, being Acts relating to permanent Building Societies and Loan and Savings Companies carrying on business in Ontario, be read the second time.

Bill read the second time.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 11:55 o'clock, p.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 20th March, 1884.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

CONSOLIDATED RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. MULOCH. I move for leave to withdraw Bill (No. 52) further to amend the Consolidated Railway Act of 1879, in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines. I may mention in making this motion that it is made in accordance with an understanding arrived at this morning in the Railway Committee. The Bill in question, which I had the honour to introduce, provided for a time limit in crossing