

legislation. But even that would not be satisfactory to the Alliance as a body. In addition to all these provisions, however, there was an act on the statute book of the Dominion of Canada, which was upon the principle of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's permissive prohibitory liquor bill. It gives electors power by memorial, to be signed by at least one-fourth of the electors capable of voting, to ask the authorities to take the opinion of the entire body whether there should be any licensed houses or none. If the Town Council were inert and sluggish, the people could set to work themselves. This was the popular direct veto, and that they (the Alliance) desired as the complement of any new legislation on the subject in this country. He did not say that as an organisation they endorsed even Canadian licensing legislation. The direct popular veto which covers all the provinces was passed at Ottawa in 1878, and *that* was an act which was clearly in the right direction, and it commanded their approval. Licensing legislation was surrounded by difficulties. Only the popular veto was clear. The other day he received a letter from one of the best workers they had in the three kingdoms, and he declared that if the United Kingdom Alliance endorsed any licensing scheme or took any part or lot in introducing a licensing bill he would at once renounce his connection with them, and denounce the Alliance as a dishonest organisation. It was clear that their work was to point the way of most easily obtaining complete freedom from licensing altogether. For that purpose they existed, and they must keep their eyes fixed on that object. The present chairman, who was also Chairman of Quarter Sessions, did not wish to say anything against magistrates. He was one himself, and an influential one too, but had put the matter so clearly as to show that he was anxious that that terrible responsibility of granting licences should be removed and given to those who could secure the fullest consensus of the opinion of the people. He was understood to express an opinion with regard to county licensing boards, and to recommend county areas for licensing purposes. Upon that point he might say that Mr. Joseph Cower, one of the vice-presidents of the United Kingdom Alliance, had introduced a Licensing Boards Bill in the House of Commons, and when he came to fix an area he found a difficulty existed. He was anxious