

good deal in the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Letellier De St. Just's) objections. In his part of the country they had had experience of the inconveniences attending privileges of this kind. He had long been opposed to giving private individuals control of any channel of navigation.

After considerable further discussion, in which Hon. Messrs. Ferrier, Letellier De St. Just, Campbell, Carrall, Odell, Reesor, Wilmot and Guevremont took part, the Bill, on motion of the latter member, was recommitted to the Private Bills Committee for amendment.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER moved concurrence in an amendment made in the Committee on Banking, Commerce and Railways, to the Bill to enable the Buffalo & Lake Huron Railway Company to make arrangements respecting their bonded debt. Carried.

On motion of Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON a bill, reported from the same Committee, to incorporate the Insurance Company of Canada, was read a third time as amended.

#### A PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL presented and read the report of the Select Committee to whom were referred the petitions for a law against the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the Dominion. It appeared from it that 447 petitions, representing 36 000 persons, including the Ontario Legislature, had been received. The signers belonged to all classes, professions and denominations. The report stated intemperance was spreading, mainly through the sale of these liquors and that the results were the greater portion of the crime committed, poverty, sickness and insanity. The report was in favor of prohibition.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL then moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Hon. Mr. CHRISIE, and suggested that 1,500 copies be printed in French and 3,500 in English for distribution. He said it was under the advice of the other members of the Committee that he made this suggestion.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said he imagined the chairman of this committee did not propose to have it understood that this House, or any of the members of it, were to be at all committed to the Bill he suggested in the concluding part of the report.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL—Of course not.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST—The adoption of the motion would amount to that.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL explained that when a committee was appointed to draft a bill, it was understood its principle was

assented to. Hon. gentlemen might be very much impressed with the evils springing from over indulgence in intoxicating liquors, while not able to coincide in the suggestion that their manufacture and sale should be prohibited. Again, if a bill were proposed next year, it could not originate with this committee, but with the Government, by means of resolutions in another place. While sympathising with the views of the committee, he wished to guard himself and hon. members against committing themselves to a bill on the subject. He recommended some verbal alterations in the concluding paragraph of the report, which, while meeting the chairman's object of publicity, should save the House from committing itself on this question.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST agreed with the Postmaster General's remarks. He believed the recommendation of prohibition amounted to nothing. The result of a prohibitory law would be simply to increase the price of liquors to the poor man and everybody else. In the States this was the case, as all knew who had travelled in them. We should have as much drinking as before, with a higher charge to the consumer and a decreased revenue.

Hon. Mr. CARRALL ridiculed the notion of making men virtuous by Act of Parliament. Prohibition in the States was a farce, while as regards the Indians, it was most mischievous in enabling a miserable class of wretches to do a business with them in "benzine" and poisonous rubbish which set them mad. (Hear, hear and laughter.) The Indian would suffer less in the North West, if permitted to go to a bar and obtain good liquor.

After some further discussion, on Mr. Letellier de St. Just's objections to altering a Senate document, in which Messrs. Ferrier, Vidal, Campbell and Letellier participated, and also as to the proper course in dealing with the report,

Hon. Mr. VIDAL, having altered the last paragraph, moved the report be received and referred to the Printing Committee.—Carried.

#### THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills, reported from the Committee on Banking and Commerce, were read a third time:

Act for granting certain powers to the Montreal, Chambly and Sorel Railway Co.—Hon. Mr. Guevremont,

Act to incorporate the Glasgow Canadian Land and Trust Co., (limited), Hon. Mr.