

believe the hon. gentleman is quite in the wrong. He has expressed his opinion that the Bill is unconstitutional, and he is doubly wrong, therefore, in voting for it. For sixteen years the Local Legislatures have been dealing with this matter without disadvantage to the country, but since there is a majority in this House who are willing to centralize these powers into the hands of the Federal Parliament, there is no use in adopting this amendment. The courts will know that such a clause will give neither more nor less power to the Local Legislature. I believe the only thing we can do at present is to submit, and seek a decision adverse to that rendered by the Supreme Court. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that we have on the Journals of this House decisions given by the Supreme Court that any layman will say are wrong. For that reason I will be all my life opposed to that Court. I have always opposed it, but I am not only opposed to it now, but I am its enemy for the future.

HON. MR. SCOTT—I hope the hon. gentleman from DeSalaberry will not press this motion, because it seems to me we are stultifying ourselves by its going on our records. It is an intimation to the Court that is called upon to try this question of jurisdiction that we do not want them to be influenced by the passing of this Bill. It is a very poor compliment to the Court assembled to suppose for a moment that they would take that view of it, and I think it would be a very poor compliment to the Senate of Canada to place it on record.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—It was considered by some hon. gentleman that in case of a doubt in the mind of the Court, the fact of the Parliament of Canada having passed such an Act would be invoked in favor of its constitutionality. It is with a view to prevent that argument from being used I have moved this amendment.

HON. MR. MILLER—It has no seconder.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—It is not necessary to have a seconder.

HON. MR. NELSON—I would like to call the attention of the House to the

manner in which this Bill will affect British Columbia in some respects, and to show why its provisions should not be extended to that Province. In British Columbia there are a greater number of saloons and hotels under license than in any other portion of the Dominion. One of the reasons for that is the fact that two-thirds of the population are male adults. The effect of this Bill will be to bring about a great destruction of property and loss to parties who are at present holding those licenses. In many cases these licenses are held by hotel-keepers with houses capable of accommodating twenty to twenty-five guests, and in many places quite a number of these will be done away with. In the town of Victoria, there are 65 licensed houses, and under this Act the number will be reduced to 16. In Yale there are 12 or 14 licensed houses, and this number will be reduced to two. The loss will fall with particular severity on those who have houses with from 14 to 24 bedrooms; it will average from three to four thousand dollars to each license holder. Then along the main roads that run into the interior we have wayside houses for the accommodation of travellers and the adoption of this law will be the means of closing up several of them, which will prove to be a great inconvenience to the people. I will move in amendment that the following be added to clause 143: "Save in the province of British Columbia, where the provincial laws shall remain in force until the first of January, 1885."

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—There will be another session of Parliament before that time.

HON. MR. NELSON—But the arrangements for giving effect to the law will begin in January, 1884, although none of the hotels will lose their licenses until the 1st of May.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I think the hon. gentleman had better let the amendment stand until next session, when an opportunity will be afforded to consider the matter. There may be some exceptional circumstances in British Columbia which may lead the House to think that the time should be extended.

HON. MR. MILLER—The Bill will have to be amended next year.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE.