

must confirm the opinion that the steady, liberal and progressive policy of the Government is the only one which can safely be followed in this important matter in the interests of the people.

*Policy in 1876.*

During the discussion of the licensing law of 1876, on the 7th February, contesting the proposal of the Government to reduce the number of licenses issued at once, Mr. Meredith moved, seconded by Mr. Scott:—

That the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be forthwith referred to a Committee of the whole House, with instructions to amend the same, so far as to provide that the provisions therein contained, for limiting the number of tavern licenses to be granted, shall not come into force until the first day of March, A.D. 1877.

The date so named was a year later than that on which the Government proposed to bring the limiting provision into force; and Mr. Meredith's motion was lost on a division. Mr. Lauder then moved in amendment, seconded by the Hon. Mr. McDougall:—

That the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be referred to a Committee of the whole House, with instructions to amend the same so as to provide that in cities and towns separated from counties for municipal purposes, the Mayor, and in other places the Warden of the County, shall be one of the three License Commissioners referred to in section one of the Bill.

This would have had the effect of perpetuating the licensing business as a vicious influence in municipal affairs to a partial extent at least. The resolution was lost.—Yeas, 31: Nays, 49.

*Policy in 1877.*

In the discussion of the Bill amending the Licensing Act, on February 16th, 1877, Mr. Harkin moved, seconded by Mr. Preston, in amendment:—

That the Bill be not now read a third time, but be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House with instructions so to amend the Bill as to enable the Council of every municipality to appoint its own inspector or inspectors; to determine his or their remuneration; to decide to whom licenses shall be granted in their respective municipalities, having regard to the limitations imposed by the Act 39 Vict., chap. 26; and to dispense with the services of the Commissioners and Inspectors now appointed under said Act by His Honor in Council.