

ability of this bill, as sustained by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. We do not propose to alter it, because in so doing we may destroy it. The line of constitutional demarcation is very fine, and any such alteration might put it out of Court. We take it as the Judicial Committee gave it to us. After having agreed that we would take the Manitoba Act, we then began to consider on what conditions we could make this Act effective? Now it is easy to believe, and it is too often the case,—you will permit me to say—that clergymen and others, who are far away from the administration of the laws, think that the administration of law is an easy thing. Far from it. It is not an easy thing. Had it been an easy thing, the effect of the Gospel would have shown far greater results than it has done in the last two thousand years. Human nature is very, very bad—(laughter)—and requires a great deal of restraint. I don't mean the human nature that is here—(renewed laughter)—human nature is very bad, and it is a very difficult thing to enforce the law. It takes 20,000 constabulary in Ireland, I believe, to enforce the coercive laws, and they are not very well enforced then. We cast about to find a basis of a specified majority, which would give us the assurance that the law would be enforced. You have read in the newspapers what was said. Some of our most influential clergymen—not more influential, perhaps, than are here—have said that it should have a large majority, some saying that it should be as high as 60 to 75%. They are as good temperance men as I claim to be; some of you may discount them—I don't know, that is not material—but they stand high in the church. I agree with them. Moreover I attach a great deal of importance to the remark of Sir Leonard Tilley, who had a great deal of experience in the Province of New Brunswick, and who said that such legislation should have a three-fifths majority. We cast about, then, for some basis, and we were about settling down to a basis of 60%, when after consultation with temperance men—and we are bound to consult all classes of the community—we found that some did not agree that the basis should be as low as 60%. Then we talked about a two-thirds vote. We found that temperance men would not agree to 60%, and said it would be a "loaded vote," and very strong things were said, and very disagreeable things were said. I then began to cudgel my mind, to see if we could not get some basis that would look reasonable and to which the majority principle would apply, and I said, if a majority can make or unmake a Government, it cannot be unreasonable to say that a