

the jurisdiction over this question rests with the Dominion Government, and while there are a great many others who believe also to-day that the jurisdiction rests with the Provincial Government, I have never yet heard of any man of standing or repute in this country who said the Dominion Government had no jurisdiction at all over the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors, and I never will hear any such statement from any reputable man, because it is beyond the possibility of doubt or question, no matter what the jurisdiction might have been it was quite evident, as it is now evident and proved, that the Dominion Parliament was seized of jurisdiction, at any rate of some kind, with reference to the manufacture and sale and importation and exportation of intoxicating liquors in this country, and therefore no matter what case case might be brought before the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court, no matter what litigation might be proposed to be sent to the Judicial Committee of His Majesty's Privy Council, at the same time this jurisdiction rested in the Dominion Government, the Dominion Parliament, and there could have been no excuse whatever for those having the great subject at heart not making an attempt to crystallize their views into legislation on the Statute Book of Canada (Opposition applause.) And so, sir, Dr. Schultz thought, and he brought forward the resolution which I have alluded to.

BLOCKED PROHIBITION IN 1877.

Now, sir, the hon. gentleman, the leader of this Government, moved at that time the following amendment:

Whereas grave doubts exist (and I notice, in the reports in Hansard, following the words "grave doubts," there are the words, "ironical cheers"), whereas grave doubts exist whether, under the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, this House has the power to deal with the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; and whereas the Court of Error and Appeal in the Province of Ontario, has referred a case to the Supreme Court, whereby the relative jurisdiction of the Provincial and Dominion Legislatures over the liquor traffic will be argued, be it therefore resolved that this House, while not receding from any previous declaration on the importance of a prohibitory liquor law, deems it inexpedient under these circumstances at present to express any opinion regarding the action to be taken by the Government in dealing with this question.

That is the amendment which was moved by my hon. friend (Hon. G. W. Ross), when the Hon. Dr. Schultz endeavored in his own way to bring this question before the Parliament of Canada for decision, in order, that he could have his way a prohibitory law should be passed; the hon. gentleman got up and stood in the doorway and prevented Dr. Schultz from bringing in his measure. (Opposition cheers.) At that time, and I am quoting from Hansard now, my hon. friend spoke as follows:

In order to satisfy himself that no unreasonable delay would occur by not putting any resolution on the paper this session, he placed himself in communication with the Attorney-General Mowat, who had charge of a case on behalf of the Government of the Province of Ontario, which was expected to be referred to the Supreme Court, and which he thought would involve the question of jurisdiction. In this correspondence he ascertained that it was their intention in the case which had been appealed recently from the Court of Error and Appeal to open up the whole question of the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislature.

Now, sir, that was the attitude which my honorable friend assumed with regard to this question in 1877. Of course there are evil-disposed men in this country, Conservatives and others, no doubt, who have suggested from time to time that the principal object the hon. gentleman had in view was to protect the Mackenzie Government, of which he was a supporter, from the possible consequences of any sudden legislation on the great question of prohibition. However that