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THE LIQUOR LICENSE QUESTION.

THE recent decision in the now celebrated case of *Hodge v. The Queen*, is perhaps of more importance than any of the former judgments upon constitutional questions. It is unfortunate that such difficult matters of law as are dealt with in these cases should become entangled with party politics, and that arguments in favor of, or against, the moral quality of governments should be based upon their power of forecasting the decisions of the Privy Council. Mr. Blake was no doubt right in saying, during the debate on the McCarthy Act, that the decision in *Russell v. The Queen* did not establish that the Provinces had not the power of regulating the liquor traffic, and he even indicated with precision arguments which could be adduced in favor of the existence of that power, notwithstanding *Russell v. The Queen*. But he went no farther, and availed himself of the privilege of his position on the opposition benches, to refrain from the expression of an opinion as to the constitutionality of either the Ontario License Act or the Bill then before the House. (Perhaps even with the added light of *Queen v. Hodge* it will be the part of discretion for neither side to be too sure of what the Privy Council will think of the McCarthy Act.) The Government, less fortunate, had to assume one position or the other, and it now appears that they were in error in