

would have the right to do that, and there would be no law to interfere with him, as to the number of his rooms or his requiring any qualifications, and no law to interfere with his having any sort of a house he pleased, providing he did not violate the municipal law about keeping a disorderly house, &c. Ought not that to be dealt with in the interest of temperance and sobriety? What the hon. gentleman is afraid of is, that any doubt should arise about the power of the local governments to deal with it. We did not raise that doubt; it has arisen in this case which has been decided, and in other cases; and I will say, with reference to its not having been mentioned before, that this view, which has been taken by the Court, about which we are anxious to have some enquiry made, was in the mind of the leader of the Government for some years, and I have heard him mention it for some time past; but as we had yielded without any consideration this question, amongst others, to the local governments, and they had dealt with it, it was not a matter which it was necessary in the interest of the country to bring up, and so long as matters were going on, with legislation believed to be law in the past, it was not worth while to throw doubt on existing supposed laws; but when the question was stated and when the grave decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council apparently throws doubt, and serious doubt, on the right of local legislatures to deal with the subject altogether, then is the time surely for Parliament to step in and solve the doubt; and in order that proper legislation for the same purpose as my hon. friend desires, for the purpose of obtaining sobriety and temperance, in order that safe legislation from the proper authority may be introduced here—if it should turn out to be the proper place—it is with reference to this that this paragraph makes its appearance in the Speech from the Throne.

HON. MR. PLUMB—It was the view held by Mr. Bethune in the Ontario Legislature several years ago, when he was a member of that legislature.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I am very much obliged to the hon. gentleman for reminding me of that; I had forgotten it. That was the view taken by Mr.

Bethune, who, we may say, without meaning anything offensive, is a member of the party to which the hon. gentleman himself belongs. We do not propose to do anything rashly in this matter; we propose to go safely and securely. In mentioning this point, I think it due to the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government to state that in all these matters he has gone on securely and safely. On every constitutional point which has been raised since confederation it has turned out that he was right, and he has always gone safely and securely.

HON. MR. POWER—No not always.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I think always, so far as I know. The inquiry will be pursued in such a way as to satisfy everybody that it is safe and prudent—more than safe and prudent, that it is necessary for us to legislate on the subject. I am confident that the inquiry will be pursued in that spirit, and the conclusion arrived at will be one to satisfy the hon. gentleman himself before he is asked to agree to the legislation.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Before my hon. friend leaves that subject, of course the Government have considered what legislation they propose to bring down, and it would be a very great relief to the public mind—I have no doubt to the very large number of people who take an interest in the subject—if he will foreshadow what the legislation is to be. If it is what is indicated in the Address, to legislate for the purpose of regulating the granting of licenses, that is actually the point to which I take exception.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—It is a very ingenious suggestion of the hon. gentleman, but I will not foreshadow this measure, it will speak for itself when it is produced, and we shall be delighted to hear the hon. gentleman's comments upon it. I do not remember any occasion on which the hon. gentleman was anxious to foreshadow the measures he was about to introduce when he was on this side of the House.

HON. MR. SCOTT—The measures are supposed to be ready when they are referred to in the Speech from the Throne.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL,