

the municipality peace and public decency, and repress drunkenness and disorderly and riotous conduct. As such they cannot be said to interfere with the general regulation of trade and commerce which belongs to the Dominion Parliament, and do not conflict with the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act, which does not appear to have as yet been locally adopted."

These views have been of course adopted in our own Courts, notably by Sir William Meredith, the late distinguished Chief Justice of the Superior Court of this province, in *Blouin v. The Corporation of Quebec*, 7 Q.L.R. p. 18.

In *ex parte Cooley* 21 L. C. J. 182, Mr. Justice Dunkin held, "that the regulation of the traffic in intoxicating liquors is within the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada." This case was reversed by the Quebec Court of Queen's Bench, but the judgment of the Queen's Bench was by consent reversed in the Supreme Court.

From these decisions it is abundantly clear that the power of prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating liquors is vested exclusively in the Parliament of Canada; that the power of modifying or extending existing laws with that object rests with it and with it alone, and that any measure in that direction passed by a Provincial Legislature would be void. If the present state of matters is unsatisfactory, the responsibility does not fall on the Legislature of Quebec, for there can be no responsibility where the right to alter or amend is denied, and those therefore who are anxious to restrict and prohibit the sale of liquor should turn their attention to the Federal Parliament, which alone is entitled to legislate on the subject.

While the right to grant or refuse licenses is not possessed and therefore cannot be conferred by the Legislature, it may, however, as was determined in *Hodge & The Queen*, make reasonable regulations of a police or municipal character of a local nature for the preservation of good order and for the good government of inns, taverns and other places where liquor is sold. For revenue purposes it is entitled also to exact such fees on the issue of licenses as may be deemed expedient. For sound legislation of this kind and for its proper enforcement, the Legislature and the Government are responsible. If in these respects, or in any of them, the existing law is defective or susceptible of amendment the Government are prepared to welcome and adopt any suggestion tending to remedy in any measure an evil which is unfortunately too apparent: and meanwhile they will continue strictly to carry out and enforce the regulations now in operation.