

Some Scotch people were agitating for licensing boards. They (the Alliance) could say nothing on that subject with authority. All they said was—"Whatever you do in the way of changing the licensing authority or retaining it where it is, there is one thing you can do, and that is, give to the people a direct popular veto upon the traffic, whether allowed by Crown-appointed magistrates, Town Councils, or licensing boards, or any other authority." (Applause.) The Alliance were not licensing reformers, and were not able to give special information upon the subject. If asked outside the platform or outside the Executive Committee of the Alliance what his views were on that subject, he should say that he had been to Sweden, Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland, and had looked at the licensing systems in the United States, and had travelled from Maine to California leisurely, and had examined their plans. Further, for like purposes he had been to Canada, and if placed in the witness box he should say they needed not to look to the continent of Europe, nor to the United States for light, but they should look to Canada, where they would find the most advanced legislation bearing upon the sale of intoxicating liquor. He said that very carefully, in view of legislation, and in view of the popular direct veto. With Maine in New England and Kansas in the West, the United States still stood first for prohibition, but when they came to talk about legislation including a popular direct veto, he said that Canada was the place to obtain the most light. As to prohibition, Kansas had clearly gone ahead of all. It had excelled even Maine, because after a vote of the Legislature the people had endorsed it, that henceforth it should be unconstitutional to licence anybody to sell intoxicating drinks as beverages. Therefore their goal was Kansas; on the way they called at Maine, and saw something grand there; and further and nearer their own home they found Canada, as it stood at the present moment under the British flag. What did he find there? He found that all the principles that they were anxious about—the principle of Local Option, the principle of the Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill, the principle of the direct popular veto—had all been embodied in Canadian legislation within the last few years. Canada was fifty times as large as their own country, and was made up of provinces or states the