

If the Legislature, then, shall determine that the necessity exists for the exercise of a more extended power, who shall decide to the contrary? What other tribunal has power to reverse such determination? Moreover the submission of a question by the Legislature to the popular vote, is a principle already recognized and acted on in the Municipal Corporation Law. The only difference being in the extent to which the principle is applied. While, then, this Grand Division shall not deem it expedient, I trust, to depart from the purpose it expressed at its last Annual Session, to seek the submission of the question by the Legislature to the people, it may, however, think fit to alter its opinion as to the precise mode by which the popular wish is to be ascertained. It is, in my judgement, worthy of serious consideration whether the vote by ballot would not militate against rather than in favour of our object.

The principle of Prohibition is gradually permeating the masses of general society. The conviction is penetrating the minds of the people that prohibition is a necessity. The Rev. John Cameron, of Harrisburg, writes that he had lectured at Windsor, Newport, Maitland, Nine Mile River, Kennetcook, Newport Landing, Shubenacadie and Rawdon, and that in all these places the audiences, which were large, were unanimously in favour of a Prohibitory Law. In the counties of Digby, Queen's, Annapolis, Colchester and Cumberland, no Licenses to sell Liquor have been granted. In Colchester and Cumberland the refusal to issue Licenses is attributed, I believe, to the efforts of the County Conventions, and in Annapolis the lectures of Dr. Robertson have powerfully contributed to this result. It is gratifying when these principles are gaining admirers among the members of the Bench. The future is full of promise when those who have been invested with law-sustaining and law-executing power are giving their adherence to the cause of prohibition.

I would submit for the consideration of the Grand Division whether it would not be advisable to recommend to the Subordinate Divisions in their jurisdiction, energetic effort in seeking the rigid enforcement of the present

LICENSE LAW,

especially in those Counties where Licenses have been withheld. In these Counties where, in answer to the prayer of the temperance people, the sanction of licenses has been withheld from the traffic, we shall be expected to afford convincing evidence that the measure is unquestionably beneficial—if not an effectual remedy. As a means of retaining the *vantage-ground* which we have gained, we ought to be able to