

in fact, been judicially held on the highest authority that it can tax millions of money that never ventured across our boundaries, if the financial institution controlling these funds has an agency doing business within our confines. It may exclusively make laws in reference to "municipal institutions," and that apparently harmless expression, popularly associated with township and county government, has been judicially interpreted to embrace an *imperium in imperio* of wide dimensions. In virtue of these words, the province can competently authorize a city to say when its taverns shall be closed and opened, when the billiardist must put down his cue, and it is an open question whether it could not enact the hours for closing theatres and commencing divine service. It may make police regulations, and though it cannot uniform a single soldier under the colors of the Queen, it may engage an army as large as the Tzar's to enforce these regulations.

Saving the office of lieutenant-governor, who is an integral part of the Legislature, representing there the Queen and the Federal authority, it can amend its own constitution and, possibly, abolish itself, or put the Legislative Council and Assembly in commission for a number of years. We will not go so far as to say that it could appoint an official liquidator for provincial affairs, for under the British system there must be a Government, and "the Queen's Government must be carried on," come what will.

Saving the restriction as to the office of Lieutenant-Governor, it could substitute for the present provincial constitution one exactly similar in terms to that of the Bulgarian Sobrange.

No one can therefore doubt that the powers of the local Legislature are large and important.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has tersely defined "the true character and position of the provincial Legislatures" in the case of Hodge and the Queen, (Law reports, 9 Appeal Cases 132) as follows:—

"They are in no sense delegates of, or acting under any mandate from, the Imperial Parliament. When the British North America act enacted that there should be a Legislature for Ontario, and that its Legislative Assembly should have exclusive authority to make laws for the province and for provincial purposes in relation to the matters enumerated in section 92, it conferred powers not in any sense to be exercised by delegation from, or as agents of, the Imperial Parliament, but authority as plenary and as ample within the limits prescribed by section 92 as the Imperial Parliament in the plenitude of its power possessed