

Mr. AUGER. The hon. gentleman must remember that four days' notice is sufficient to the licensee to know that a petition is to be presented against his license, but if you give more time to him you just take so much time from those opposed to him, because they have only fourteen days, and they are the ones who have to make the proof.

Mr. McCARTHY. Besides, no injustice can be done, because the Board may adjourn.

On section 25,

Mr. McCARTHY. This clause provides the accommodation required in a hotel for the public. The Committee thought that in cities and towns there should be six bedrooms, and in country places three. The present law in Ontario provides for four bedrooms in cities, towns and country places. I do not know whether the Committee approve of the provision as to six bedrooms. Some gentlemen think the minimum should be four.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Mr. FISHER. In a good many cases the hotels have regular boarders, who take up the whole accommodation, and leave no room for casual travellers. I certainly think it would be not advisable to reduce the number.

On section 26,

Mr. McCARTHY. Sub-section 2 of this clause is to meet the existing practice at sea-board towns. It was represented by the members of the Committee from the Maritime Provinces that both at St. John and at Halifax there were houses where there were no appliances for eating. Of course, we have none such in our part of the country, and we promised we should leave it to the Board to say when this accommodation would be dispensed with.

Mr. FOSTER. As far as St. John is concerned, unless some other person objects, I should be happy to dispense with this. Where you allow saloons to be kept without those accommodations they degenerate into shebeen shops. Although they may be found in some of the Maritime cities, it cannot be argued they are of any great benefit to the persons who frequent them. One of the great dangers to sailors is these tipping shops. I should rather by far they would be struck out.

Mr. BLAKE. I hope the view of the hon. member will be accepted. I view with great alarm this clause. I believe the saloon is one of the worst features of the whole business even if it is a well-appointed eating-house, and I do not think we should give discretion in this matter to the Board, with the varying views of its members and the varying pressure that will be brought to bear on them.

Mr. RICHEY. As regards Halifax, I have already presented to the Committee the views which animate me in adhering to this clause. We have heard a good deal about vested interests, and anxious as we are to promote the cause of temperance, it will not do to play fast and loose in a matter of this kind. In Halifax some years ago, ardent temperance men told us we should separate the sale of liquor from the sale of all other things, and we did so, and granted what are called tavern licenses, under which nothing but liquors could be sold. It was supposed in this way that the cause of temperance was promoted. Our experience in Halifax is that those places are not so injurious to the cause of temperance as saloons, or shops where persons go ostensibly for other things, but really to obtain liquor. Judging by my experience, I feel that I would not be justified in surrendering this clause. It would work great injury to persons who had abandoned all other business, and gone wholly into the business of selling liquor. As it is, there will be a very large reduction in the number of licenses now granted in the city of Halifax. On this point I feel it my duty to say that, in relation to liquor legislation, Nova Scotia has been in advance of every other

Province, inasmuch as we have required, before any person could obtain a license for the sale of liquor, he should present a petition signed by no less than two-thirds of the electors.

Mr. BLAKE. While great respect is to be paid to the views of the citizens of Halifax, I do not see why we should bow down and worship the idol of uniformity to that extent that we should accept this, which we do not want in the West. It may work well in Halifax, but it will not work with us.

Mr. RICHEY. This Bill is a matter of compromise, and this section is supported by hon. members from various portions of the Dominion. The hon. member from New Brunswick, who was on the Committee, and the representatives of British Columbia, are in favor of it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We will allow this clause to stand over.

On section 27,

Mr. AUGER. In some of the municipalities the hotels have boarders who occupy all the bedrooms, so that there are none for transient travellers. They should be forced to give accommodation to travellers.

Mr. BLAKE. This difficulty exists, and some provision should be made prescribing so many bedrooms for transient travellers.

Mr. FISHER. County municipalities ought to be placed on the same footing as cities and towns. I do not see that any arguments applying to these may not also apply to county municipalities.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). I would like to see it read "the Council of any municipality—may by by-law—to be passed before the 1st day of March, &c." I do not see why the Councils of cities and towns should be specially privileged in this respect.

Mr. JAMIESON. A municipality may mean a county.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not see that any reason has been given for this discrimination.

Mr. McCARTHY. It has been adopted from the Ontario Act, and I suppose it has been found to work well. Speaking generally, I fancy the accommodation that is required by the Bill is quite sufficient, and more than sufficient. However, we will make it read: "the Council of any city, town, incorporated village, township or parish."

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 11:55 o'clock p.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Monday, 21st May, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAYS.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 137) for authorizing subsidies for the construction of the lines of railway therein mentioned.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee.