

contrary, by the Acts above referred to, the power to issue licenses was placed exclusively, and in every instance in the hands of the Governor of Canada, and upon the presentation of a certificate granted by any of the examining bodies the Governor might or might not issue the license according to his good pleasure. I quite freely admit that almost universally the license was granted upon compliance with the required conditions. I recall but one instance in which it was refused. But the fact that Parliament did not hand over to the examining bodies the power to issue licenses but retained it absolutely and unconditionally in His Excellency's hands proves that he and his Parliament had wisely guarded the State against two contingencies: First, In case the privilege of examination was abused (as it undoubtedly was, and in the rivalry for quantity rather than quality the boards issued many certificates to men wholly unqualified), then the Governor held in his own hand the remedy—the refusal of the license. Second, In case, in the development of the country and its institutions, any other system of examining and licensing students presented itself, calculated to give to the people of Ontario better qualified medical practitioners, then Parliament was at full liberty to adopt that system. It thus appears that the great "vested rights" cry, which has done such yeoman service for the privileged representatives of the Council, amounts to no more than their investment with a little brief authority to examine students, and the certificates they issued were dead and valueless, unless called into life and potency by the good pleasure of the Governor. The boards were simply the servants of Parliament for the time being, and whenever Parliament thought fit to employ other servants, or have this work for the people done in another and more efficient manner, it was at liberty to do so, without having any vested claims of former servants to consider. The Crown recognizes no absolute vested right. The moment any so-called vested right conflicts with the public weal it ceases to be a vested right, and becomes a subject for remedial legislation. This is a principle observed, and in practice followed, by all well-governed countries. Take, if you please, two or three illustrations from the statutes of our own Province: Two decades ago Parliament enacted that the unit of population for which a liquor license might issue was 400, and in some localities hotels were erected and equipped at great cost for the full number; last session our legislators, impressed with the conviction that the best interests of the people demanded a material reduction in the number of licenses, increased the unit to 600, thus cutting off 30 per cent. of the licenses. Did Parliament make any provision for the so-called vested rights wiped out of existence by the Act? None