

with regard to Victoria and not in favor of any other part of the Dominion; but I may say that the temperance question has never been prominently brought before the people of that city, as before many other parts of the Dominion, and hence this accounts for the fact that we ask this exception to be made. We have now in Victoria some sixty-one licensed places for the sale of intoxicating liquors. I am sorry to say so, but it is the case for a population of 7,000; and the law would work a most radical change in that part of the Province. The number would be reduced about one-half, and I think that this would be a greater reform than will take place under the Act in any other city in the Dominion. I am a total abstainer myself and have been so for a number of years. Not only so, but with regard to the temperance cause, I do not propose to take a back seat with regard to any member of the House in this respect. At the same time I think that there is reason in every question, there are two sides to everything, and I believe that in matters of this kind we should move cautiously and be sure that the ground on which we stand is good. I know that there have been many false steps taken by temperance men with regard to the temperance cause, where they have tried to push ahead of the moral sentiment of the people. This has, in many instances, worked injuriously; and I believe that this clause will work a great deal more good to the interests of temperance, than if we placed that city on the same footing with all other places. When this matter was before the Committee, I only spoke for my own constituency; and I think that we know better than any other members, the requirements of our own Province. I sincerely trust that the clause will remain as it is.

Mr. BAKER. I quite agree with my hon. colleague in this matter. Nanaimo and New Westminster were not considered in this relation, because the members for those constituencies had told us that this Act would not seriously affect them in reducing the number of licensed places.

Mr. GORDON. But it does.

Mr. BAKER. I understood you to say it did not.

Mr. GORDON. You could not have so understood me.

Mr. BAKER. At all events, I was under that impression; and these hon. gentlemen can now move amendments to the clause if they like; certainly we know better what we want in our constituency than anybody else. If this Act went into force as it is, it would reduce the number of licenses from sixty-one to sixteen, which would be a very material change, and it would not be appreciated by the people in that constituency. It must be borne in mind that this is not an inland or country constituency; but essentially, a seaport, the initial point for the Province where all the large mail steamers come. All descriptions of vessels, of every class, tonnage, and nationality drop anchor in the Royal Roads of our harbor, and since it has been in the wisdom of the License Board of Victoria to grant an exceptional number of licenses, which are now fixed at sixty-one, I think such a wholesale reduction as would take place if this clause were not introduced, should not be made, and I therefore hope the hon. members of this House will be good enough to allow the clause to pass.

Mr. GORDON. I am sorry that I was misunderstood as to the effect this Bill would have on my own town. The effect will be to reduce the number from eleven to five; and notwithstanding that these six may suffer, whoever they may be, still in the interest of the cause which this House has taken seriously to heart, I could not have the effrontery to ask that a special clause be inserted in order to relieve the town of Nanaimo from the general effect of the Bill. Whatever effect it may have amongst my constituents I believe I am acting rightly in supporting the general propositions of the Bill, and allowing it to apply

Mr. SHAKESPEARE.

to my own Province and town as it applies to all the other Provinces and towns. I have frequently noticed that the House has opposed the principle of making special exceptions at the solicitations of hon. members, and I hope this principle will be adhered to with regard not only to British Columbia but every other part of the Dominion, unless in my Province the matter is left to the Local Government.

Mr. HOMER. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Shakespeare) spoke to me when the Bill was printed, and I told him I was in favor of it. In British Columbia we have a large Indian population—about the same number that you have in the North-West, and while the sale of liquor to Indians in the North-West is strictly prohibited we shall be giving almost free trade in liquor to our Indians. One of the best things that this House can do will be to restrict or prohibit the sale of liquor to the Indians. I believe that the striking out of this clause will confer a benefit upon the whole Province and especially upon our Indian population. It is said that Victoria is a seaport town, so is Montreal, and Halifax, and Quebec, and St. John, and I do not see any exception made in favor of them. As a representative from British Columbia and feeling some interest in the credit and representation of that Province I hope the House will not allow such a stain to remain upon it.

Motion, to allow the clause to stand, negatived.

Mr. McCARTHY moved that the following be substituted for sub section two: "In incorporated villages, being county towns, five licenses may be granted notwithstanding that according to the population that number may not be issued."

Amendment agreed to.

On section 44,

Mr. GIGAULT moved that the words "township or parish" be inserted after the word "village."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the county councils ought to have the same right to limit the number of licenses in the different parishes in that county, as the council of any city, town or village. In New Brunswick our counties are municipalities, but our parishes are not.

Mr. RICHEY. The position taken by the hon. member for King's (Mr. Foster) is perfectly correct. So far as I am aware, outside of the cities in New Brunswick, there are no municipalities, except the county municipalities. There are no township or village municipalities.

Mr. DAVIES. We have no municipal organization or anything approaching it, so that the clause as it now stands will not apply to Prince Edward Island. The only thing we have is the School District.

Mr. McCARTHY. Then this clause cannot operate there.

Mr. DAVIES. But you take away from our people the right enjoyed elsewhere of limiting the licenses, and a right they enjoyed before.

Mr. FOSTER. That is not taken away, because if you look at section 46, that gives to the municipality or parish this right, and that may be extended to the School District in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman supposes that the majority of all the electors resident in the parish is equivalent to the majority of those present at the meeting in a school district. The hon. gentleman has only run one election or he would know better.

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman who last spoke will never be more clear or definite in his facts than he is now he will be but one-half in the truth and one-half in error. I ran two elections.