

except it had gone in the direction of absolute prohibition.

In drafting that Bill, I was most careful that all reference to the licensing question should be omitted, and wherever it necessarily came in—as it does in some details—it is shown that it belongs to the local legislatures to deal with the licensing, and that we ought only to prohibit the sale in given areas where they came in with their power to license. We can put a stop to licensing if we please, by declaring prohibition in any given area, but if we do not choose to do that, they then can come in with their licensing power. We cannot say it will be lawful to sell liquor on Sunday, but we may say the reverse. If they put a condition in their licenses that the tavern will be closed at 7 p.m. on Saturday and not opened till 7 a.m. on Monday, we cannot say that it shall not be so; we cannot make the licenses nugatory because it is not in the direction of the power given to this Parliament. We can say the converse of that, because we could do it on the assumption that our legislation would be in the direction of peace, order and good government, but no man would say that it would be in the direction of peace, order and good government that liquor shall be sold on Sunday or any other day; it could not be maintained for one moment. There were some ridiculous laws of this kind years ago. I think it was under the blue laws of Connecticut—the legislature of that State passed a law prohibiting a man kissing his wife on a Sunday, and that law was continued in force for a long time. I do not know whether it was observed. Fortunately, we can legislate in the direction of doing much good, and largely restraining the liquor traffic, but we cannot do anything to weaken the local legislatures in the line which they have marked out for themselves, having the same object in view. Thanking the House for listening to my somewhat diffuse observations on that particular point, and making the apology—if apology need be offered—that this is a subject in which I naturally take a great deal of interest, from having had to do with the inception of the law, I will leave the subject.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—Before the Address is carried, I desire to express my satisfaction at the hopeful reference in the Speech from the Throne to the

natural resources and future prospects of British Columbia. We have to thank His Excellency for the favorable prominence given the Province in other lands. With through communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and with such fair treatment as the Province is now receiving at the hands of a paternal Government, we have no fear of its ultimate progress. Any one who has paid attention to the amount of our contributions to the public treasury must be struck with the marvellous increase in our revenue during the last ten years. From \$350,000 at the time of Confederation, it has grown year by year until now it reaches nearly \$1,000,000, equal to about \$16 per head of the whole population,—White, Indian and Chinese. Hon. gentlemen must be struck with this, when they compare it with the taxation of other parts of the Dominion, and especially Ontario. The people of this Province contribute \$4 per head to the revenue, or only one-fourth of the taxes paid by the population of British Columbia.

I hope it will not be considered unparliamentary or out of place, my alluding to the visit of the Governor General and Her Royal Highness to British Columbia—it afforded much pleasure to all classes in our country. The considerate and kind condescension of His Excellency and Her Royal Highness, endeared them to all with whom they came in contact, and their visit will always be remembered with satisfaction, and I am proud to think that our people extended an enthusiastic and loyal reception to our most distinguished visitors, and I am extremely gratified to hear that they carried with them a good impression of our country and people. His Excellency's visit must be beneficial: he has seen with his own eyes and heard with his own ears, and as his opinion is free from any prejudice, it is worthy of the highest consideration, and therefore of great value. The allusion in the Speech from the Throne to the disposal of lands granted by the Province, in aid of the Railway, is a matter of much satisfaction to us. For some time we have been pressing on the Government, the advisability of throwing those lands open to settlement, and I am pleased to see an intention of steps being taken in that direction.