

license, the ordinary tavern or saloon license, the shop license, licenses to vessels, and the wholesale license. Applications for all these licenses are to be received and decided upon by the Commissioners, and the Board is to meet once in each year, in the month of March, and the various applications which are to come before them are to be filed some weeks beforehand, and notice is to be given in the papers of the number of applications and the names and particulars of the applicants, so that the whole neighborhood may know what taverns apply to be licensed. In the case of persons coming up for the first time for a license, they are to bring with them—or their applications cannot be heard—a petition from one third of the inhabitants of the polling district in which the tavern is to exist, and in addition to that it is provided that any 10 persons may petition against, and any of the 10, or any person appointed by the municipality, may be heard against the issue of the license. The objections to the license are to be of a two-fold character: either against the person himself because of his character or preceding conduct, or against the house itself, either from its position or from insufficiency of accommodation. All these objections and any others which occur to the license commissioners are to be heard and disposed of in open court, with the knowledge, therefore, of the whole community, and affording an opportunity to any one who has a petition against the issuing of the license, as well as an opportunity to the municipality, to urge any objections they may wish, of the character I have indicated. Then the license commissioners themselves may, if anything is known to them over and above what may have been stated to them by these representatives of the people, take objections; and after all this investigation, if the Commissioners see fit, the license issues. Then, when issued, the license is subject to a variety of rules for the purpose of preserving the well-being of the community, and in order to enforce such rules and regulations as ought to be obeyed by the saloon or tavern keeper, by the seller of liquor by wholesale, or by the seller of liquor on board of steam vessels. Then the whole number of licenses to be issued in any one locality is fixed, and on a basis specially with reference to the population,

while if the tavern or saloon keeper or other licensee disobeys the rules and regulations alluded to, he is not only liable to a penalty, but after repeating the offence, I think three times, he forfeits his license. The general principles of the Bill are, therefore, I think, as wisely and carefully drawn as one can desire, and they are also very clearly set forth in the body of the measure, as I think we shall find as we go through it in committee. Provision is made for the sale of liquors in cases other than those which I have mentioned, where a municipality has by its vote (provision for which is made in the Bill) signified its desire that there should be no liquor sold within its boundaries; for there is provision for the sale of liquor for medicinal and other purposes, within certain restrictions. Great care seems to have been taken to ensure good houses, and their being kept by persons of proper character, that they shall be in good localities and shall not be offensive to the neighborhood, or in such localities as are calculated to be injurious; while at the same time it is sought to give a reasonable degree of liberty for the purpose of enabling those interested to carry on their traffic. I do not think that I can describe the general tenor of the Bill more clearly than I have done, but as we go on, should any question arise upon the several clauses, we shall have the fullest opportunity of discussing them.

HON. MR. WARK—Is there any provision in the Bill for the imposition of penalties upon those who infringe the provisions of the licenses issued by the local authorities?

HON. MR. SCOTT—The Bill is framed with the intention of taking away from the local legislatures the power of issuing licenses.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—The Bill provides for the punishment of those who infringe any of the provisions of the licenses issued.

HON. MR. SCOTT—The Bill is based upon the presumption that the licenses as now issued shall hold good until new licenses are issued, but after that the issuing of such licenses will be *ultra vires*