

will find it better to leave this matter in the form assumed by the Government. He will see, to use a common expression, that he was barking up the wrong tree; and I fancy that this House will not permit any such interference with the measure proposed—an interference which, I think, would be entirely in the wrong direction, and an interference which would show that the gentleman who has for a long time taken the initiative in the general temperance movement—a movement with which no one sympathises more than I do, if it was properly directed, has failed entirely, because his course is narrow and proscriptive, and because he does not understand the feeling and temper of the country.

MR. SCRIVER: It is strange that no member of this House can rise to express his views on any subject without exposing himself to the imputation, by the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, of having acted from some unworthy personal motive. I think the hon. gentleman might, in charity, have supposed that the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Ross)—known as he is for the active and consistent interest which he has taken for many years past in promoting the cause of total abstinence—might view with suspicion and alarm the movement which is proposed to be made by the Militia Department in this matter. At the risk of subjecting myself to the imputation, from the hon. member for Niagara (Mr. Plumb), of acting from some unworthy motive, I will state that I sympathise with the views of the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Ross). I regret exceedingly that the Department of Militia has been induced to adopt such a course. I believe, in my heart, that it has not originated from the commanders of the Force throughout the country, but has been suggested at head-quarters by those who know very little of the peculiar temptations to which our young men are subjected. I know that this proposal does not meet with the approval of the commanding officers in that part of the country in which I reside, and that they would much prefer that matters should remain as they are. The hon. member for West Middlesex has very rightly said that the battalions are generally encamped at a distance from any place where these

temptations are likely to be found, and I think it would be very unfortunate if the facilities were increased for the volunteers when in camp to obtain—even as the hon. the President of the Council says—beer, which, though comparatively unobjectionable, is still an intoxicating liquor. There is no doubt that the granting of these facilities would be against the views of the parents of many of these young men. I did not understand the hon. the President of the Council to meet the point raised by the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Ross), as to the legality of establishing these places. It is true, as he says, that the Bill provides that this power should not be given where the Temperance Act prevails; but in places where that Act is not in existence, a license is required to sell even beer, and I cannot see that we have the power in this House to give the military authorities, forming camps in any part of the Dominion, power to sell liquor without infringing on the Local Act. I would like to know how that difficulty is to be met. In any case I protest strongly against the passage of any such law as this. I regard it as not calculated to promote those habits of morality which we desire to see prevail among the young men who constitute the bulk of our Volunteer Force.

MR. MASSON: I would rather give my opinion on a point of discipline connected with the Force than on a matter of Constitutional Law, but it does appear to me that if we could pass the Temperance Act, to which the hon. gentleman has referred, we must also have the power to pass a measure of this kind.

MR. MACDOUGALL: I hope the late Minister of Militia will find it consistent with his duty to act upon the suggestion which has been made, and withdraw this clause from his Bill. I have very great doubts that the Scott Temperance Act will bring about all the good results it is expected to achieve. I am opposed on principle to coercive legislation, in regard to the habits of the people, as to what they shall eat and drink; but it is pretty well known that the moral sentiment of a very large portion of the people of this country is in favour of discouraging by all legal and proper means the too common indulgence in intoxicating liquors. The Scott Temperance Act is now in force in some localities, and