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VOL. VI. NO. 261. TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1877. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BY ALLAN STEAMER.

From Liverpool, March 15th.

THE GOTHENBURG SYSTEM.

Mr. Chamberlain's proposal to adopt the Gothenburg system of managing licensed public houses in this country has met with an ignominious defeat, which would have been more marked only that the division was taken when many of the members were at dinner. Mr. Chamberlain moved, "That it is desirable to empower the Town Councils of boroughs under the Municipal Corporations Act to acquire compulsorily, on payment of fair compensation, the existing interests in the retail sale of intoxicating drinks within their respective districts, and thereafter, if they see fit, to carry on the trade for the convenience of the inhabitants, so that no individual shall have any interest in the profits of the trade." The amendment that the motion was rejected by 103 votes to 21.

The Birmingham *Gazette* says:—It is clear that the House of Commons, as a whole, completely pooh-poohs the notion of Mr. Chamberlain, and in that respect the Lower House fully represents the general sentiment of the country.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

On March 14th the House of Commons was occupied in discussing the Intoxicating Liquors (Scotland) Bill, the second reading of which was moved by Sir R. Anstruther, seconded by Mr. Maitland. Its object is to suspend the issue of licenses until the number of public houses is reduced to 1 in 500 of the population, and when a new license is applied for to give to the inhabitants within 200 yards of the proposed house the option of refusing it. It also seeks to place Grocers' licenses in Scotland on the same footing as in England, and to prohibit the sale of spirits in open vessels, or in less quantity than a quart bottle. Sir H. Ibbetson, speaking for the Government, said he was not prepared to admit that the consumption of drinking or convictions for drunkenness depended on the number of public houses, but he was prepared to admit that the number of public houses, he had always opposed it on account of the impossibility of fixing the amount of accommodation the various districts might require. Mr. Cross pointed against the assumption that so much good has been accomplished by the Act, and that it was a mere matter of figures. Again, it may be contended that the great increase of the consumption of light wines tells against sherry. Various reasons for this. There is a good deal of fashion in wine drinking, and just as sherry superseded madeira many years ago, it may be in turn superseded. But this is a novelty in the history of the trade, and it may be contended that the great increase of the consumption of light wines tells against sherry. Another reason