

difficulty in escaping the law. I call his attention to this matter because no doubt he knows that no liquors can be sold in the Province of Ontario without a license, and I believe the authority of this Bill would not be construed as a license within the jurisdiction of the Local Legislature. I hope the hon. gentleman will consent to the withdrawal of this Clause, and I believe he will be doing himself credit if he does consent, and will be conferring a favour upon the Force. I move that the said Bill be not now read a third time, but be referred back to a Committee of the Whole House, with instructions to amend the same by striking out the 4th Clause.

MR. MASSON: I need not say that I entirely sympathise with the efforts made by the hon. gentleman, and others who agree with him, to promote the cause of temperance in this country. It is exactly because I think it necessary to help the hon. gentleman, and those who act with him, in the course they have adopted, that this Bill has been introduced by the Government. I can tell the hon. gentleman—if I may be allowed to refer to what has occurred in another place—that this Bill has received the unanimous approval of all the temperance gentlemen in the other branch of the Legislature, because they understand that by this Bill you will curtail the use of spirituous liquors by our Volunteer Force. If the hon. gentleman will look at the clause against which he is contending, he will see that in any locality, where the Temperance Act is in force, it will not be allowable for an officer to establish a canteen in camp, but in localities where the Temperance Act is not in force, where spirituous liquors can be sold, the Government thought it conducive to the morality of the Force to have the canteens under the control of the officers, instead of allowing the members of the Force to go to taverns and other places of that kind.

MR. MACKENZIE: Won't they do both?

MR. MASSON: They will not have any inducement to go to taverns if, in the camp itself, they have the means necessary—for after all there must be some liberty allowed on this score to obtain these stimulants. I may state that it is the intention of the De-

partment to make very stringent rules in regard to this matter, and that nothing stronger than beer will be allowed in the camps. I submit to the House whether it would not be conducive to the morals of the whole Force to allow them to have beer in the camps, instead of going into taverns and indulging in brandy, whiskey and gin. I think the hon. gentleman should not press the motion in amendment.

MR. PLUMB: The hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Ross) never loses an opportunity to improve an occasion of this kind, and I may say that he never in any case, so far as I remember, was—if I may be allowed to use the expression—more *blatant* than he has been just now. If he had read the Bill he would have seen what was pointed out by the President of the Council, namely, that the liquor laws now in force would not be superseded by the provisions of the Bill, but he was anxious to show his ardent desire to catch a temperance vote, and he therefore endeavoured to help his cause by reckless statements; but it is clear that he never read the Bill through.

MR. ROSS: I read it through long ago.

MR. PLUMB: The hon. gentleman now hears that the Government have placed proper restrictions upon canteens, but one would imagine, to hear the hon. gentleman's objections, that he was in the interest of the booths and liquor shops outside the camp, because he does not desire that there should be any other provision made, and that the men should be allowed to go where they please for that which they cannot be prevented from obtaining, instead of the officers of the camp being authorised to control the sale of liquor which it is impossible to prevent. He knows perfectly well that the young men who join the Volunteer Force are young men of the highest respectability, young men who are to be perfectly trusted, and yet he objects to the salutary measure proposed to be adopted. I was surprised at the hon. member for West Middlesex pressing an amendment to this Bill, merely for the purpose, for it was evident that that was his only idea, of making a temperance harangue to the House.

MR. ROSS: You need it.

MR. PLUMB: The hon. gentleman

MR. ROSS.