

Mr. PROWSE asked the Government to lay on the table a petition from certain inhabitants of Murray Harbor, North, praying for the establishment of a Post Office.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT said that the Government did not feel disposed to bring down every petition the prayer of which was not accorded to, but that the petition in question had been referred to the Postmaster General, and he would not recommend the establishment of a Post Office at that locality.

LIQUOR LAW.

On motion of Mr. P. Sinclair, the House went into the Order of the day, on the second reading of the Bill to amend the laws relating to the sale of spirituous liquors.

During the reading of the Bill a knock was heard at the door, announcing a message from the Legislative Council. As soon as the Bill was read, Hon. Leader of the Opposition remarked that it was the duty of the Legislative Council, before sending a message, to ascertain in what business the House was engaged, and said that if any business was allowed to stop the reading of a Bill, it would be lost.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT stated that it was for the House to say when they would admit the messenger.

A message was then received from the Legislative Council, stating that they had passed the Bill, entitled "An Act to amend the Act for incorporating the Sumner-side Bank."

On motion of Mr. P. Sinclair, the House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the Bill to amend the law relating to the sale of spirituous liquors.

Mr. Cameron in the Chair.

The first clause was then read.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION—I want to know why a distinction was made between Georgetown and Charlottetown, and whether it was accidental or not.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR.—It was not quite accidental; it was considered that Georgetown was not such a town as Charlottetown, but I have no objection to having the word Georgetown inserted.

The word Georgetown was then inserted.

Mr. BELL.—Mr. Chairman, this amendment was called for on account of the practice which prevails in many school districts, of applicants for license going round from house to house, and using an undue influence to induce persons to sign their certificates, and even forging names in some instances, when a sufficient number cannot otherwise be obtained. In many places the inhabitants wish to be temperate, and to have temptation put out of the way of themselves and their children, and I do not see any fairer way than allowing them to express their opinions at a public meeting, whether it would be advantageous to have a tavern in the place or not.

Mr. HOWATT.—Mr. Chairman, the Bill states that a certificate is to be obtained from one of the two nearest magistrates, but if he refuses to sign the certificate there is nothing in the Bill to compel him to do so. If it is not intended to enforce a prohibitory law, I think there should be something to compel a magistrate, when the people are willing to have a public house, to sign a certificate to that effect. I should like to ask will it be necessary to get a majority of the inhabitants to sign a certificate every time a license is renewed? If so, I think it will prevent persons from going to the expense of providing good accommodation, because they would be uncertain how long they would be permitted to keep a public house. It will not be advisable to put too many restrictions upon the License Law. I have known taverns to be closed in places where they were absolutely required by the travelling public.

Mr. BELL.—I may say, in reply to the last speaker, it will be just as compulsory on a magistrate to preside at a public meeting, and sign a certificate in favor of having a tavern when the people express the desire to have one, as it is now on him to issue a warrant. It is on account of the unjust manner in which certificates have been obtained, that this law has been deemed necessary. As to the renewal of a license, there is no trouble about the matter. The applicant can go to the magistrate, pay his fees, and ask him to call a public meeting, and if the majority of the inhabitants are in favor of a tavern, they can have it; but if they are not, it is not right to force them to have a trap of this kind in their midst.

Mr. HOWATT.—I cannot see what is to compel a magistrate to sign a certificate, if he thinks proper to refuse; neither can I see what is to compel the people to attend a public meeting. The Bill says that a majority of the inhabitants must be in favor of having a tavern; but if a majority do not attend the meeting, how are you to ascertain their views? It might happen that no person would attend a public meeting.

Mr. BELL.—It is not very likely that a man would call a meeting unless he is pretty well assured that some person will attend, and if the friends of temperance are so careless as not to be present at the meeting, they must put up with the consequences.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Formerly, Mr. Chairman, an applicant for license had to obtain the signature of one of the two nearest magistrates; but it was found that in some cases, where the magistrates had a dislike to the person, they would not sign his certificate, and so the law was changed so as to make it two out of the four nearest. Perhaps if this Bill is passed, neither of the two magistrates would be willing to sign the certificate, and thus it would virtually be enforcing a prohibitory law.

Mr. BELL.—Under the former law the magistrates were not to officiate if he considered the public house unnecessary; but under this law he will be compelled to sign a certificate, if the people wish it to be done.

Mr. BRECKEN.—The second clause of the Act will settle the objection raised by the hon. member for Tryon. If the magistrate declines signing a certificate, it would be a just cause of complaint against him.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION—I think the hon. member from Caspempne has the best of this argument. If a magistrate refused to do a duty which the law ordered him to do, he could be compelled by a writ of mandamus from the Supreme Court, or he could be prosecuted by indictment for neglect of duty.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The wording of the clause makes it imperative on a magistrate to sign a certificate if the majority of the inhabitants are willing that the applicant shall obtain a license. If a magistrate refuses to do as the law requires, he would be setting himself against the laws of the land, and would be unfit to retain his office. I never saw an act passed, in which a duty was imposed on a magistrate, where it was stated that he would be fined if he refused to perform that duty. It would be a slur on the magistracy to assume that any of their number would be unwilling to enforce the laws; but if such a case should occur, as has been shown by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, there is a remedy.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR.—According to this Bill a magistrate will not be bound as he was under the old Act. He will only have to certify that he has called a public meeting, and that a majority of those present voted in favor of having a tavern. In reference to what has been said by the hon. Leader of the Government concerning the former Act specifying one of the two nearest magistrates, although I do not pretend to be so well acquainted with the laws as he, yet I think it was two of the neighboring magistrates that was mentioned, and as it was very hard to find who were neighboring magistrates, it was found necessary to change the law and make it two of the four nearest magistrates.

Mr. G. SINCLAIR.—A question was asked by the hon. member from Tryon, viz: whether it would be necessary to call a public meeting every time it was requisite to renew a license. I do not think that according to this Bill it would be required, it is only in the event of taking out a license that this Bill applies.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR.—I think it also included the renewal of license.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—If a person goes to the expense of fitting up a tavern he should be allowed to keep it while he complies with the law and keeps an orderly house.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I do not think a majority can prevent the renewal of license, that will require two-thirds as formerly. This clause relates to the original granting of the license.

Clause agreed to.

The second clause was read. Some discussion arose concerning the wording of the clause, as to whether it meant that a majority of the householders in a district would be required to vote in favor of having a tavern, or only a majority of those present at a public meeting. It was decided that it meant a majority of those present at the meeting.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Under the old Act an applicant for license required to get a majority of the householders in the district, but according to this Bill, householders in the district, but according to this Bill, he would require only a majority of those present at a public meeting. This might only make the matter worse, for those interested might draw up a number who were in favor of having a tavern, and there would be a one-sided meeting. I am well aware that in some districts the Sons of Temperance would attend a meeting of this kind, but in others they would not, and it only five were present three could carry the day.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR.—The arguments of the hon. Attorney General may hold good in some instances, but it was the wish of the petitioners to have the law amended in that way, and I think we should grant them their desire.

Mr. G. SINCLAIR.—I very much doubt if this method will be as satisfactory as the old system.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I think Mr. Chairman, that a public meeting is the proper place to decide whether there is a necessity for a public house or not, in no other way can it be so easily or correctly ascertained. I like to see men come forward boldly and state their views.

Mr. G. SINCLAIR.—I do not think it is likely that such a case will occur as that imagined by the hon. Attorney General, that hardly any person would attend a public meeting, but if it does the people can remedy the evil when the license expires. A public meeting where people meet each other face to face is the best place to decide any question. I think this will be an improvement on the old system, but if it will not work well the law is not like those of the Malays and Persians it can be changed.

Clause agreed to.

The next clause was read which provides that no Court of Justice, or post, or other Government office shall be held in any house licensed to sell spirituous liquors.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—Mr. Chairman, I objected to this clause because it was of too sweeping a nature, and the more I investigate it the more sweeping it appears. There are one hundred and twenty Post Offices on the Island and therefore only six in taverns, and for the sake of this small number it is scarcely worth while to pass a law and force the Government to turn men out of office this year when they appointed last year. Some of these are very efficient officers; we have one at Summerside, and there people need not go into the Bar-room at all, as there is a separate entrance into the Post Office. I have no objection to have the law so amended, that hereafter no Post Office shall be established, but I would hardly be fair to turn out those already appointed, I would, therefore, move that the words "hereafter be appointed," be inserted after Government Office.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR.—If the Government think it is coming too hard upon them to turn out those men now, I should have no objection to allowing some time before the Bill should go into operation, and thus give them ample opportunity to find other suitable persons for the situations. I think this is the best feature of the Bill, and I think the Government have a very good right to remove all Post Offices from taverns, for an affair occurred in one of these Post Offices not long ago, and the Commissioners appointed to make that investigation recommended the removal of Post Offices from public houses. I shall oppose the amendment proposed by the hon. member from Tignish (Mr. Howland).

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—I do not wish to give the Bill a factious opposition, and if there was any great injury to result from allowing those few Post Offices in taverns, I should have no objection to removing them. In regard to what has happened in a Post Office held in a tavern, it has not been clearly proved, and it is not right to bring up anything as an argument which is only conjecture; and even supposing it could be proved, it was not the result of keeping the Post Office in a tavern, the very same thing might have occurred had the Post Office been anywhere else. The Government appointed the officers and it would look rather strange to turn them out when no fault is to be found with them.

Mr. G. SINCLAIR.—I cannot agree with the amendment proposed, because if there are only six Post Offices in taverns, it is acknowledging the principle that it is right to have them there. But that the Government might not be taken too much by surprise, I would move that the Bill do not come into operation until January, 1869.

Mr. PROWSE.—Mr. Chairman, I cannot support the amendment proposed by the hon. member from Prince County (Mr. Howland) because the passing of this Bill will be a very good reason for parties who keep Post Offices in taverns, either to give up selling liquor or give up their office. Neither am I in favor of the amendment proposed by the hon. member from Malpeque (Mr. G. Sinclair) for I do not see any necessity for allowing so much time. Parties who accept Government Offices are liable to be turned out at any time without warning for when a change of Government takes place, if their political opinions do not coincide with those of the party in power they are immediately despatched, and if you remove a man from office for such a reason as this, surely when a great moral principle is at stake it will not be wrong to do so.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—It may seem strange to turn a man out of office merely because he sells spirituous liquor, yet I believe no public office should be held in a place where such an article is vend-d. The hon. member who spoke so much in favor of allowing those Post Offices to remain in taverns, did not give us any reason why Courts of Justice should be held in those places. He has stated that there are only six Post Offices held in taverns in the Island, if so I think the sooner we abolish the system the better, as it has become obnoxious to the people.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—I did not wish any Courts of Justice to be held in taverns, I would leave that part as was intended by the original mover of the Bill.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I acknowledge the principle that it is highly improper that Courts of Justice should be held in taverns, and also that it is inadvisable to have Post Offices kept in such places, but I agree with my hon. friend from Tignish, and think it would be better to insert the word "hereafter" and not interfere with the few Post Offices which are now held in taverns. Some of these are kept by very competent persons, there is one on the Georgetown Road kept by Mr. Findley, and I do not know one kept better anywhere else.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I think this amendment will allow Courts of Justice to be held in taverns when they have been held there already.

Mr. PROWSE.—I think there must be some mistake in regard to the number of Post Offices kept in taverns. I can point out four in King's County, and it is rather strange if there are only two in Queen's and Prince Counties.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—I have it in the hand writing of the Postmaster General, if the hon. member wished to see it he can do so.

Mr. PROWSE.—I do not accuse the Postmaster General of stating what is not true, but this statement may have been made without due consideration never dreaming that it was to be brought before this House.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—This statement has not been made on the spur of the moment—here is a list of all the Post Offices on the Island, and those kept in taverns are marked.

Mr. PROWSE.—Some I set down I have had a slip of paper handed to me with the name of another on it, which makes five in King's County which keep Post Offices in Taverns.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—If the hon. member will name the persons, I will see if they are marked on the list.

(One or two were then named which could not be found on the list.)

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—There may be a few more but suppose we double it, it will be the number is twelve, it would not be a great many. You must remember that there are persons outside of this House who hold different views from those of the Sons of Temperance, and who think it is perfectly right to have Post Offices in taverns; and even if they are in the minority, their views should be respected.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR.—This amendment which has been proposed will include Courts of Justice as well as Post Offices. A great deal has been said about the small number of Post Offices which are kept in taverns, but the fewer there are, the less trouble it will be to remove them.

There is no doubt that there may be some who wish to have Post Offices kept in taverns, but if it is wrong to have them there, the wishes of some individuals should not prevent their removal, for there is no Act passed which is not against the wishes of some.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I am opposed to holding Post Offices of Courts of Justice in taverns. I do not think any man with a family would care to send his children to a tavern for his last impossible to have there are places where it is almost impossible to have Post Offices without having them in houses of this kind; and as it is admitted that the few Post Offices now held in taverns, are kept to let them remain, but I would suggest that for the future there shall be none appointed. I would suggest that if the hon. member for Tignish would withdraw his amendment, perhaps it would be better to have it worded, "No Government Office hereafter to be established, or Court of Justice now constituted or hereafter to be constituted, shall be kept or held in any public house or tavern by law licensed to sell spirituous liquors."

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—Mr. Chairman, as we are not all acquainted with every locality in the Colony, I think it would be well if those hon. members who speak from knowledge, would name some places where it is impossible to have a Post Office, without having it in a tavern.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—I withdraw my amendment in favor of that proposed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I think the hon. member from Murray Harbor has imposed a difficult task upon this House. I do not think any hon. member has such a knowledge of all the localities in which Post Offices are held that he can point out every place that has no convenient place except a tavern in which to keep them. But when we reflect that there are such a small number, I think the grievances cannot be very great, and these few might very well be left at the discretion of the Government. Although I stand up in favor of any amendment in the Liquor Law which will promote the cause of temperance, yet we should not adopt any course that would cause inconvenience, and I think it is unreasonable to ask for a change of this nature.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—I think the information I desired is within the bounds of reason. I did not ask any hon. member to point out every place where Post Offices could not be held anywhere except in taverns; but when an hon. member stated that there existed a necessity in some localities for appointing Post Offices in such places, he might name some of them.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—I am informed by the Postmaster-General, who should be the best judge in these matters, that in several of the localities where Post Offices are held in taverns, no other place could be found so convenient. I do not find fault with the principle of not establishing Post Offices in taverns for the future, but think it would be too sweeping a measure to remove those already appointed. These temperance people take upon themselves to say that it is wrong to appoint a Post Office in a tavern, but they must be wiser than the legislators of the land, for the late Government, as well as the present, have made such appointments. There are men in the Colony who do not believe it is wrong to sell liquor, for there are one hundred and twenty licensed taverns on the Island and these must have been recommended by Magistrates.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Some of those Post Offices were left as legacies by the late Government, of which the hon. member from Murray Harbor and he assisted in appointing to office the very man whom he is now so strenuously endeavoring to get removed. I think a new light has broken in upon him, but unless he shows that he remonstrated with his colleagues in the late Government against these appointments; I do not think his arguments now will have much weight. I should like to see temperance done away with, for it is the cause of a vast amount of poverty and misery and crime.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—I have no doubt that this is an age for new lights; but I will make a bargain with the hon. Attorney General.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I do not wish to make any bargains.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—If he will tell me what he presses upon the Government of which he is the legal adviser, I will also tell him what my advice was, when I occupied a position as a member of the Executive. I think the information I desired for the benefit of this Committee was perfectly reasonable, for when any individual takes up a certain line of argument, he should put himself up with clear information on the subject. It could hardly be expected that I should be capable of knowing everything connected with the appointment of Postmasters by the present Government; but I did hear that a certain gentleman in the Government, was instrumental in getting a Post Office removed from the place where it was formerly held, and established in a tavern. What I wonder most at is, that while this question is under discussion the real friends of temperance are not rising, either to assist me, or to give me a gentle hint that the amendment is satisfactory.

Mr. BELL.—I do not wish to force anything on the Government which would cause them any inconvenience. If the people of the School Districts get an opportunity of abolishing drinking from their midst, I shall be satisfied; but it is inconvenient to the Government to remove these six Post Offices, let them have time to do so. It has been said that a great many persons keep orderly public houses, but just as many keep disorderly ones. We wish to do away with the drinking habits of society altogether, and to educate the public mind on this question, so that people may do without intoxicating liquor.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—The hon. member from Murray Harbor, with a great deal of innocence, denounces the appointment of Post Offices in places where liquor is sold; but he belonged to a Government which not only made such appointments, but could not even allow Her Majesty's troops to go out into the country without being plentifully supplied with liquor. It is rather a strange proceeding for a Legislature to allow a man to sell liquor, and then to do away with the drinking habits of society altogether, and to educate the public mind on this question, so that people may do without intoxicating liquor.

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"I had no appetite; Maggiel's Pills give me a hearty one. Your Pills are marvellous!"

"I send for another box, and keep them in my house. Dr. Maggiel cured my headache that was chronic."

"I gave half of one of your Pills to my babe for cholera morosa. The dear little thing got well in a day."

"My husband a morning's now cured."

"I rubbed some of your Salve behind my ears and the noise left."

"Send me two boxes; I want one for a poor family. I enclose a dollar; your price is twenty-five cents but the medicine to me is worth a dollar."

"Send me five boxes of your Pills. I have three boxes of your Salve by return mail."

FOR ALL DISEASES OF THE KIDNEYS, RETENTION OF THE URINE, &c., Maggiel's Pills are a Perfect Cure.

ONE DOSE WILL SATISFY ANY ONE. FOR FEMALE DISEASES, Nervous Prostration, Weaknesses, General Lassitude, Want of Appetite, MAGGIEL'S PILLS will be found an effective remedy.

Maggiel's Pills and Salve are almost universal in their effects, and a cure can be almost always guaranteed.

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Sold by all respectable dealers in medicine throughout the United States and Canada, at 25 cents per box or per pill.

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PATIENTS CAN WRITE FREELY ABOUT THEIR COMPLAINTS, AND REPLY WILL BE RETURNED BY FOLLOWING MAIL. Write for "Maggiel's Treatment of Diseases."

COUNTERFEITS! COUNTERFEITS!! All readers of this paper are warned not to purchase MAGGIEL'S PILLS OR SALVE, unless the name of J. H. JACK, Proprietor, in addition to the name of Dr. J. Maggiel, is on the engraved slip surrounding each box or pill.

W. R. WATSON, sole Agent for P. E. Island. May 11, 1868.

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Depend upon it, mothers, it will give rest to your infants, and

Relief and Health to your Infants. We have put up and sold this article for over thirty years, and can say, in confidence and truth of it, what we have never been able to say of any other medicine—never has it failed, in a single instance, to effect a cure, when timely used. Never did we know an instance of dissatisfaction by any one who used it; on the contrary, all are delighted with its operations, and speak in terms of highest commendation of its magical effects and medical