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## Legislative Proceedings.

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SATURDAY, March 20, 1852.

### HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE PETITIONS.

(*Concluded.*)

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY moved an amendment to the Resolution submitted by Mr. Palmer; which amendment was seconded by the Hon. Mr. WHELAN, and was, in effect,—"That prohibiting the importation of Ardent Spirits would not prevent intemperance, but encourage smuggling; and that a revision of the Laws for regulating the traffic in Ardent Spirits, with a view to placing the granting of Licenses under regulations, different from those at present existing, would afford the only check to intemperance at present practicable."

Hon. Mr WHELAN, in seconding the amendment proposed by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, said, there had not, he believed, that evening been uttered a single sentiment in condemnation of intemperance, from which one individual in the House would dissent. The evils, misfortunes, and crimes, consequent upon intemperance, came, he believed, in some measure, within the experience of every member of the House; and all, he doubted not, would readily and cheerfully acquiesce in any really prudent and practicable measure for their diminution or suppression. But when they came to consider the question, with a view to prohibition, it was the duty of the House to look to the interests which prohibition would affect, and to the obstacles which would have to be overcome. In the first place, it was to be remembered, that the duty on Spirits was about one-fourth of our whole revenue; and next, it ought to be borne in mind, that the extinction of the manufacture and traffic in spirits would throw many men out of employment, and deprive their families of support. Hon. members, who wished to annihilate the trade, had not shown either how the loss to the revenue was to be remedied, or how those whose interests, either as capitalists or laborers, would be damaged, were to be compensated. It might be said, that they whose interests would be injured by the suppression of the traffic, had no right to look for compensation for such injury; but he thought otherwise: for, by an arbitrary law, to deprive any man of the benefits which had been accruing to him by the prosecution of a lawful trade, would be an act of positive wrong and injustice; and could only be justified by reasonable compensation. The object of "the Sons of Temperance" was unquestionably good: benevolence to their fellow men was, he believed, their ruling principle; but he did not think, that the designs of all who pretended to support their views, were in harmony with the dictates of benevolence. Many, who seemingly gave their support to the temperance movement, had in view the accomplishment of designs widely different from the suppression of the traffic in ardent spirits, with a view only to the good of their fellow-men. He had looked at the Temperance Petitions which had been sent in, and had observed, that not one-half of those who had subscribed them, were either householders, freeholders, or electors: the lists of signatures were greatly extended by females and others not yet adolescent, and also by individuals who, so far from being "Sons of Temperance," were known to take their grog very freely. Besides the valid objections to be taken to the extreme views of those favorable to the object of "the Sons of Temperance," founded on the diminution of the revenue, the injury to the interests of those directly engaged in the spirit trade, and to the growers of barley, it ought also to be observed, that the views of the Petitioners and their supporters were very far from being sustained, to their full extent, by public opinion. The signatures to the Petition did not, he believed, represent five hundred adults, and yet its object was intended generally to affect 63,000 persons. He was strongly of opinion, that any sudden change, such as that proposed by the entire prohibition of the trade in ardent spirits, would only tend to the encouragement and extension of smuggling. But he would be willing, that the House should be pledged to revise the License Law next Session, although he thought that, as it at present stood, it was quite stringent enough, provided it were strictly and duly enforced. One improvement, however, might, he thought, be made in it, and that was, to make it necessary for a person wishing to obtain a Tavern License, to procure the concurrence of the majority of the people resident within eight or ten miles of the place in which he wished to open his Tavern. This would, in his opinion, be better than to allow Tavern Licenses to be obtained either in the way in which they are now procured, or to place them wholly in the power and at the disposal of Grand Juries.

Mr. CLARK. He believed that more could be done by moral suasion, out of doors, for the spread of temperance principles and practice, than could be accomplished by the Legislature. But, at the same time, he believed it was in the power of the Legislature, by an efficient License Law, greatly to circumscribe the dominion of intemperance. Through the operation of such a Law,—the power to grant, withhold, or cancel Tavern Licenses being, thereby, conferred either upon Benches of Magistrates, or Grand Juries, and not, as at present, left to two magistrates,—many of the schools of vice, in which so many of our youth are corrupted, many of the hovels and dens of infamy now open in the Island, would be effectually closed, and the atmosphere around them purified from the moral pestilence with which it is now laden, to the destruction of the purity, health, happiness, and prospects of all who habitually breathe it. But still, he believed, there was only one grand remedy for the evils of intemperance; and that was to cut off the spring whence supplies for excess were derived. There is no safety but in total abstinence. He who drinks in moderation to-day, may drink to excess to-morrow. The hon. member for King's County (Mr. Whelan) seemed to be much afraid that the temperance movement would be made a political engine; and, if he (Mr. Clark) understood him aright, was decidedly opposed to the consideration of the temperance question, as one of legislative policy, or popular agitation. The hon. member (Mr. Whelan) could not, however, be ignorant, that under representative constitutions—in Great Britain especially—all great political and social reforms had been accomplished by means of popular agitation, as affecting elections, and finally determining the agitated question by the voice of the people's representatives in parliament; as here Responsible Government had been established solely in consequence of its having been submitted, to the several constituencies of the Island, as a question, on which they were, themselves, practically to decide at a general election. That the temperance question should, in a similar way, be submitted to the determination of the people, or should, at all, be made a subject of popular agitation, previous to a general election, would, in the opinion of the hon. member for King's County, (Mr. Whelan,) be highly improper. He, (Mr. Clark,) however, thought very differently. Nothing, it was admitted, on all hands, could be a greater scourge to a people than intemperance. There could not then, surely, be any social evil, for our deliverance from which, all ought to be more deeply concerned. And, as Legislatures were, confessedly, constituted the guardians, not only of men's civil rights, but of public morals, could any question be more worthy of legislative deliberation and action, than that involving a people's subjection to, or deliverance from, the awful scourge of intemperance? He was bold to reply, there could not. And he hoped that, both here and elsewhere, the cause of temperance, in the hands of truly honest, and judicious advocates, would yet prove one of the most powerful and beneficial elements of popular agitation, that had ever been brought into action for the promotion of a people's well-being and happiness. He certainly did not expect, that the present Assembly would put an end to the traffic in intoxicating liquors; but, still, he entertained a very sanguine hope, that the time was not distant when it would be prohibited by legislative enactment.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. He would support the Resolution of the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown. He had not the honor to be a "Son of Temperance," although it was not impossible that he might yet, convinced of the propriety of their principles, become one; but, could he be satisfied of the possibility of securing a sufficient revenue, and that smuggling would not be increased, by prohibiting all traffic in ardent spirits, he would acquiesce in the prohibition; for, otherwise, the greatest benefits would arise from the prohibition. With respect to the mode in which the License Law was carried out, he could say, from experience, that it was disgraceful in an extreme degree, and its requirements were, almost every where, evaded. It was to be supposed that men appointed to the magistracy were endowed with sufficient knowledge, honesty, determination, and public spirit, to carry out, and give their full force and effect, to the laws, of which they were especially appointed the administrators; but any thing but a confirmation of this supposition was to be found in the many wretchedly ill-adapted houses which they had constituted Taverns, and that too, very often, where, from their immediate contiguity,—not being more than half a mile apart,—it was quite obvious they could not be required. The License Law, or the mode of carrying it into effect, required revision and amendment; and he thought that, under a better licensing system, the evils arising from intemperance might be greatly abated.

Hon. Mr. POPE. He fully concurred in all that had been said by the friends of temperance, except as regarded the views entertained by them with respect to the policy of prohibition. He had lived long enough in the world and seen enough of the evils of intemperance, to be sincerely desirous to remove them. He was well aware of the great good which had been accomplished by Temperance Societies; and he was most friendly to the objects which they had in view. To their honor, he would state that, through their untiring exertions, there was now in the district of Bedeque, which was formerly notorious for scenes of dissipation, one Tavern only, and, to the credit of the people, they accounted it a nuisance. The good which had already arisen from the diffusion and practice of temperance principles was very great; and, he had no doubt, still greater would be accomplished by them; but, to him, it was evident, from calculations made, and based on the present financial state of the Colony, that it would be impossible, at present, to adopt the extreme views entertained by many friends of the temperance cause; for the abolition sought for by them would deprive us of one-fourth of our revenue. And, besides, in considering that proposal, it was to be remembered that this Island is not independent of Great Britain, and that, consequently, we could not, by law, prohibit the traffic in ardent spirits without the sanction of the Home Government, which was, certainly, not to be expected, he thought, so long as Great Britain was so deeply interested, as at present, to maintain the interests of her West India Colonies. And, decidedly favorable as he was to the cause of temperance, he was bound to say, that he could not acquiesce in what he deemed the extravagant views which were entertained by some of its friends, with respect to the use of ardent spirits as a beverage. He could not see that the temperate use of them was a sin against God, or man; nor could he find that such use of them was forbidden by God. He could not, therefore, perceive by what rule of justice, such friends of temperance meant to proceed, when they proposed to prohibit, by law, the use of all intoxicating liquors. To do so would be to punish those who never used them, otherwise than in strict and lawful moderation, for the sin of those who carried their indulgence in the use of them to debasing and vicious excess. He was desirous that the House should immediately give evidence of the sincerity with which they desired to diminish the evils of intemperance; and that, he thought, they could best do by a revision and amendment of the License Law. He would propose, that no houses should be licensed as Taverns, except they were clearly required for the accommodation of travellers, and he would prohibit the selling of liquors, in such houses, to any but travellers and lodgers. Drunkards were made in tippling houses. Few men became so by indulgence in their own homes: there the wholesome restraints imposed upon them by wives, children, and servants, were safeguards against excess. Prevent tippling in taverns, and dram-drinking at counters, and habits of intemperance will not long continue. He would do away with all Store Licenses, and he would, in no case, allow the retailing of intoxicating liquors, except under the strictest regulations. Such regulations would, he thought, effectually strike at the root of the evil. Beyond that, he would leave the remedy to moral suasion; by which means, he was persuaded, more converts to temperance would be made, than by measures of coercion. And he very much questioned whether the friends of prohibition and coercion would give unquestionable proof of their sincerity and benevolence, by submitting to tax themselves to make good the deficiency in our revenue, which would be occasioned by such a prohibitory enactment, as that for which they prayed.

Mr. YEO, in supporting the views of the Petitioners, mentioned his having, when last in London, been taken by Sir George Seymour to a meeting of about fifty naval commanders, some of whom were admirals, and others captains,—the object of the meeting being to consider upon the propriety of introducing the observance of temperance principles in the navy, some being favorable to their introduction, and others opposed to it,—that he (Mr. Yeo) might state to them what benefits had been experienced by himself, as a ship-owner, from having introduced temperance regulations amongst the crews on board his vessels. The hon. member recapitulated the advantages, which he had stated to that meeting of naval officers, he had experienced, in a period of four years, to arise from the enforcement of temperance principles on board his ships—such as greater security to life and property, more speedy voyages, and to all on board greater order, harmony, and comfort, and to the men increased wages, in the shape of an allowance of four shillings a month, instead of grog. The meeting, he said, kept him under examination for more than an hour, and he had the satisfaction to find that, from the information which he had afforded them, coupled with their own partial experience of temperance regulations in the navy, they were of opinion, that if grog allowances were altogether withheld, and coffee given instead, as in merchantmen, with temperate crews, there would be much more peace, order, comfort, and safety on board ships of war. The hon. member then concluded by observing, that the prohibition of distillation would occasion no loss to the farmers, for it would be much better and more profitable for them to convert their oats and barley into pork, or to export them to England, than to sell them here for the manufacturing of whiskey.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY. He had no objection to amend his motion, agreeably to the suggestions of the Hon. the Treasurer. He would approve of a Law, the operation of which would lessen the number of Licensed Taverns. It was, he thought, admitted, on all hands, that there were too many; and it was notorious, that few of them had the accommodations required by the Law, gross deception having been practised upon the magistrates at the time of procuring certificates. These remarks applied not only to Taverns in the country, but to Taverns in Charlottetown as well. He would not allow any to obtain Licenses for Taverns, but such as could afford proper accommodations to travellers; and he would cause all Taverns to be shut up at 10 o'clock at night. Such an arrangement would do away with much drinking. If a person walked into a Tavern at eleven or twelve o'clock at night, he would, generally, find more persons drinking in it, than at any time throughout the day, particularly on a market-day. To prohibit the importation and distillation of spirits would only increase smuggling; for it would be impossible to provide a sufficient preventive force to guard against it. To impose heavy duties, would operate in like manner: it would afford encouragement to the smuggler, and injure the fair trader.

Mr. MOONEY. I am sorry that "the Sons" have petitioned the House at all. There are well-intentioned men amongst them; and, when they took their stand, I lauded them in my own mind, and I would join them, were it not that they seek to achieve too much, and divest themselves of that Christian charity, of which the great governing rule is, "Do unto all men as you would they should do unto you." On this ground I differ with them; for, while I abstain myself, I allow another free-will to partake. But "the Sons" will lose their lustre by suffering themselves to be made a cat's-paw of. Under the garb of religion, the wily politicians, who have united with them, will carry out their subtle designs, eclipse "the Sons," and leave them in utter darkness. For what other purpose did men, who are actually grog-sellers, at this very moment, themselves, sign these petitions? O, Sir, let "the Sons" come out, in all their glory, from behind the dark cloud of deception which is gathering around them for their utter ruin! Let them stand aloof from politics. Let them show, by their exemplary conduct, that they are worthy of imitation. Passive resistance is the most powerful weapon man can wield. Suffer importation and distillation of ardent spirits, while no man can be compelled to consume it. Where are all those fears if, by legislation, we could do away with liquors in *toto*? Where then would be their merit or reward for abstaining, not having the power to partake? The man who is proof against temptation shall have a great reward; and as one star exceeds another in brilliancy, so will the man who, although surrounded by vice, never offends, be rewarded for his virtue. But, Sir, the petitioners will be kept in hopes until next year, and when next year comes, there will be some other matter brought up. This House will then be near its death through age; and the question will be put off a while longer. Let it be the test at the hustings. By it they may get some out of power, who, at present, annoy them very much; and, if they accomplish that, "the Sons" may set never to rise again. This is my version of this famous dodge. The hon. member for Charlottetown thinks the power of granting Licenses should be left to the Grand Jury. Oh, what a Grand Jury they are at times. Are they more grand than eighteen other men? Not they. It is composed, in many instances, of what they call, in my country, "boys." Yes, Sir, young men in Charlottetown, if they are well barbered and dressed, though they wear a moustache, it will not prevent the Deputy Sheriff from calling them to the Grand Jury. Even if they were never out of the Royalty, they are accounted quite good enough to serve as Grand Jurors. These are the men who know who are entitled to Licenses! What a ruse on the public! Sir, the injustice of the measure demands more from me. Say that the foreman was a Tavern Keeper, would he be willing to allow his next-door neighbor to sell grog? No, Sir, he would not. Regard for self being the predominant passion of man, it could not be expected of him. What did a man, who called himself "a Son," tell me, two days ago? This, "That he did not expect much from the present House; but he thought we would do away with many of the Taverns, and that would be a blessing, even if no more were done. In his opinion, there were quite too many. David Stewart's, he thought, would be quite enough from the Colonial Building to Mr. Pethick's." If that recommendation would not pay Mr. David for his signature, what would? There was some brotherly love in it, in my opinion. But, Sir, the more I gaze at it, the more visible is the deception; and I will not suffer "the Sons" to be betrayed in this manner. I hold in my hand a Resolution which will test the sincerity of the advocates of the measure. They have pictured the Importation and Distillation of Liquors in all their deformities, destroying health and morals, bringing disease and death in their train; and all these evils are brought on man through intoxicating drinks. It is for the Committee to say, whether we can remedy the evil by legislative interference or not. If we can, why put it off for another year? Let us fly to the rescue of the people at once. This Resolution will let "the Sons" know how many "Fathers" they have in this House. It is this:—

"*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to bring in a Bill, this Session, for the purpose of preventing the Importation and Distillation of all Liquors."

The Resolution having been read, and the question put thereon, the Committee divided, only two—Messrs. Mooney and Clark—voting for it.

Mr. PALMER, in reply to the objections which had been made to his Resolution, said, "The principal arguments, or rather opinions, advanced by the hon. members who have opposed my motion, amount to nothing but this, 'That should the Legislature prohibit the importation of Intoxicating Liquors, it would offer a direct premium for Smuggling.' Where, however, I should like to know, would be the benefit to the smuggler, when, by the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, his occupation would be gone? But, as it is at present, we offer the smuggler a direct premium in the amount of the spirit duties; and we know that smuggling is carried on to a great extent in every quarter of the Island, even in Charlottetown. But, if we altogether prohibit the traffic, where will be the profit? As it is, the smuggler contrives to get in his contraband spirits; he evades the duty, and trucks it from one end of the Island to the other. But should the traffic be prohibited, where would be his customers? If there were no grog shops, where would he find a market? The fact is, the smuggler's occupation, above all others, would then be at an end. It is next objected, that the prohibiting of the importation of spirits, would occasion so great a diminution of the revenue, as seriously to embarrass the country; and that we would not be able to make up the deficiency. It is, I admit, very true that the prohibition would, at the outset, very materially diminish the revenue; but, to meet the diminution, the Legislature could impose a higher duty on some harmless and necessary articles of consumption. The *ad-valorem* duty on tea, sugar, cottons, &c., might be increased. Nor would there be that difficulty in the way of, or objection to, such an alteration in the scale of duties as might at first be apprehended. Individuals, who had been in the habit of wasting much of their time and money in grog shops, would then not only be more industrious, but would expend their money with greater regard to the comfort and respectability of themselves and families. The useful mechanic, who can earn six or seven shillings a day, would not then be found wasting half his time and half his earnings, as, perhaps, some do now, in taverns, for the benefit of the traffickers in spirits, legal or illegal. His earnings, on the contrary, would be applied to their legitimate purpose, and in providing for the increased comfort and respectability of himself and family; he would expend upon necessary articles, or harmless and simple luxuries, the money of which he formerly robbed himself and family to increase the gains of the manufacturers and retailers of intoxicating liquors. And thus, not only would the morality, comfort, and respectability of individuals be greatly improved; but, ultimately, the revenue itself would be greatly increased. The change would not, I think, occasion any great falling off in the revenue the first year; but, even if it occasioned a diminution to the amount of £2000 or £3000 a year at first, what would that loss be in comparison with the immense benefits which would result to the people at large, in being freed from the greatest scourge that has ever fallen upon mankind—the scourge of intemperance? It has also been said, that other motives, besides those originating in a desire to promote the cause of temperance, have had their share in producing the Petition now introduced to the Legislature, and that politics have had a considerable share therein. To this I reply, we all know that, besides the daily and hourly evils which arise from the use of intoxicating liquors, they have, by certain parties, been freely dispensed at elections, and mainly relied upon, by such, as the best of electioneering engines; but, if this practice, shameful and disgraceful to all concerned, is henceforth to be withstood, and if now the embracing of temperance principles should be made a sort of test of the worth of individuals, solicitous for popular favor and support,—that so salutary a principle is to be recognized as a political motive, is, in my opinion, something to be most heartily rejoiced at. That the freely dispensing of spirituous liquors has been often used as an electioneering engine in this Island, cannot be denied; and that they will be so used again, so long as the manufacturing of them and trafficking in them shall be legal, is, I think, equally undeniable. Will any one, then, be bold enough to say, that, if the use of intoxicating liquors is any way to be allowed to affect elections, it is not much better, that the consideration of the evils arising from the traffic in them should be made to bear as a political engine for the eradication of vice, than that they should be employed as the means of bribery, corruption, and the debasement of humanity. The "Sons of Temperance," however, and others who have united with them in zealously endeavoring to rescue the land from the scourge of intemperance, have, I am happy to say, steadily pursued their philanthropic course, uninfluenced by party or politics; and, unaffected and unswayed by party strife or party triumph, I hope they will persevere until complete success shall finally crown their efforts. On the subject of its being characterized as a political movement, an able writer of the present day, whose language I shall quote, states as follows:—

"'But this is carrying temperance into politics,' shrieks some mousing politician.

"Awful plot. Party leaders turn pale, and stand speechless with consternation. Wire-pullers swoon with excessive horror. Carry temperance into politics? Verily, temperance could not be carried where it is more needed. And why should we leave our consciences at home, when we go to the polls? Matters of infinitely less moment have furnished the watchword and battle cry of whole political campaigns. Were we not once entreated to let our votes be governed by our preferences for a high or a low tariff? The amount wasted by alcohol would suffice to purchase all our present importations and distribute them among the people gratis. The United States Bank was once made an item of political capital; and yet the trade in intoxicating liquors, swallows up, every six months, the whole value of the 'monster,' with its lofty marble palace, and all its vaults of bullion. The Mexican war was made a test question at an election. But alcohol destroys more lives than the Mexican balls, and the Mexican climate combined; while one week's waste would purchase, twice over, the territory originally in dispute."

It has been said, that some of those who have signed the Petition are not adults, that some are women, and that others are men who are in the habit of taking their glass. Now, I think, there never has been a Petition more respectably signed before this House; and I am not ashamed to compare it with any Petition that has ever been presented to the Assembly. And I wonder whether, if the signatures of the Petitions which were sent in in favor of Education, had been carefully examined, some, if not all of them, would not have been liable to such objections as those which have been frivolously made to that which is now before the Committee. As to there being signatures of men who are in the habit of using intoxicating liquors, of women, and even of children, attached to it, such a consideration cannot fairly militate against it; but, on the contrary, ought to give it more weight, as showing that its object is not a class measure, but one which is prayed for by individuals, both old and young, rich and poor, temperate and intemperate—all alike dreading or feeling, and seeking to be delivered from the evils of intemperance either immediate or prospective. Now I do not ask that the question should be taken up in the present Session, but in the next, when members shall have had an opportunity to become acquainted with the sentiments of their constituents with respect to it; and when they shall have had an opportunity to determine whether it is a political question or not. I do not think we can, at present, give an answer to the Petitioners; but we can engage to do so next Session; and I do not think a Resolution pledging the House to do so, can justly be deemed useless. I do not expect, and neither do the Petitioners expect, that the House should now proceed at once to legislate upon the question; but I wish the House to say to them, that the prayer of their Petition shall, at the earliest period possible, receive their most mature consideration. Such an answer will, I think, be sufficient for the present.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. He would support the Resolution moved by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown. It was too late in the Session for the House to take up the whole question, with a view to immediate legislative action thereon. He was himself, however, of opinion, that the remedy for intemperance was not to be found in the House, but out of it. People could not be made virtuous by the mere power of a law. Moral suasion was the means by which vice was to be eradicated and virtue induced. And he hoped sincerely, that the day was not distant when, by the gentle, but sure efficacy of moral suasion, the degrading and ruinous vice of intemperance would be driven from amongst us. At present, however, it was a fact, that Taverns were on the increase throughout the Island; and, therefore, he would have no objection to enter so far into the question, this Session, as to provide for the diminution of their number.

Mr. DAVIES. He was rather disappointed by the manner in which the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown proposed to deal with reference to the object of the Temperance Petitions. It amounted, in fact, to nothing but giving them the go-by. If any thing was to be done for the suppression of intemperance, the present was the time. It was not yet so late as when the Legislature was convened last year; and there was quite time enough to take up the question, and practically to deal with it by enactment, at least for the amendment of the License Law. To seek, however, to prohibit the importation and distillation of spirits, by law, was a mad and fanatical scheme; and, were such a law in force, it would afford a direct premium on smuggling. The hon. and learned member for Charlottetown had said, that, were the importation and distillation of spirits prohibited, there would be no Taverns, and, consequently, no premium on smuggling; but he would beg leave to tell the hon. and learned member, that the Law could not eradicate tastes: the taste for liquor would remain; and that taste would afford sufficient encouragement to smuggling. He was, however, willing to vote for the Resolution of the hon. and learned member, for taking into consideration, next Session, the expediency of prohibiting, by law, the traffic in ardent spirits; but he would also vote for the motion of the hon. the Treasurer, having for its object, immediate action, in the present Session, for lessening the evils of intemperance.

The Hon. the SPEAKER, after favorably contrasting the dinner and after-dinner *temperate* habits of respectable individuals of the present day, with the dinner-table *intemperate* practices of what was called good society, in the days when he was a boy,—when young men were either obliged to submit to be early initiated in devotion to the bottle, or to be driven, by scoffs and jeers, as girlish milk-sops, from the table, as soon as the cloth was drawn,—expressed his perfect willingness to go any practicable lengths for the suppression of intemperance. He approved of many of the suggestions which had been made for the improvement of the licensing system, because he thought their adoption would not only produce an improvement, generally much needed, as respected tavern accommodations for travellers, but would also tend to diminish habits of intemperance. He was prepared to go with the Resolution moved by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown; but, he confessed, he had little hope, that the Government of Great Britain would, at present, sanction a law for prohibiting the importation and distillation of spirituous liquors in any of her Colonies; as it would be a counteracting of those interests which her statesmen conceive themselves bound to support. He would, however, remark, that, whilst he entertained every respect for the Temperance Petitions, he was persuaded every moral reformation was best effected by moral agencies; and it was his opinion, that the temperance cause would be much advanced, were the ministers of religion and the church officers of the different denominations of Christians, besides using every power of entreaty, exhortation, and admonition, to exercise the power which they possess, of excluding intemperate members from church privileges, until they should reform. That would be moral suasion: it would be a moral and religious, and not a political movement. He approved of all the Resolutions, but he would vote for that which went the farthest.

### HOUSE RESUMED.

Mr. FLYNN reported the three Resolutions agreed to in Committee, as given in the previous portion of this Report.

And the first of the said Resolutions being again read, and the question put thereon, it was unanimously agreed to by the House.

The second of the said Resolutions being then again read—

Mr. CLARK moved to amend the same, by leaving out the word "intemperate," in the first line thereof.

The House divided on the motion of amendment:

YEA—Mr. Clark.

NAYS—Messrs. Palmer, Douse, Laird, Fraser, Flynn, Macneill, Mooney, Wightman, Yeo, Davies, Macaulay, Montgomery, Thornton, Haviland; Honorables Col. Treasurer, Mr. Jardine, Col. Secretary, Mr. Coles, Mr. Whelan.

So it passed in the negative.

The question being then put on the said Resolution, it was agreed to by the House.

The third of the said Resolutions being then again read—

The Hon. Mr. WHELAN moved, as an amendment to the same, that after the word "Resolved," all be left out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof:

"That Legislative interference, if immediately extended to prohibit the importation of ardent spirits, would not prevent the sin of intemperance: that the House be recommended to take into its consideration the expediency of revising the Laws for regulating the traffic in ardent Spirits, and for the punishment of Drunkenness, in certain cases, with the view of placing the granting of Licenses hereafter to be issued for the sale of ardent Spirits, under other and different regulations from those which at present exist; and of otherwise checking the evil of Intemperance."

The House divided on the motion of amendment:

YEAS—Honorables Mr. Whelan, Col. Secretary, Mr. Coles, Col. Treasurer, Mr. Jardine; Messrs. Mooney, Macneill, Fraser, Laird.

NAYS—Messrs Palmer, Flynn, Wightman, Thornton, Macaulay, Montgomery, Davies, Clark, Haviland, Yeo, Douse.

So it passed in the negative.

The question being then put on the said Resolution, it was agreed to by the House.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill pursuant to the third of the above reported Resolutions.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Palmer, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Macaulay do compose the said Committee.

## Agriculture.

*Published under the direction of the Central Board of Agriculture in Nova Scotia.*

### ON THE ADVANTAGE OF GREEN CROPS.

To enumerate all the benefits to be derived from Green Crops, will be found a task not easily accomplished; inasmuch as it is hardly possibly to overrate their importance, or to state how far they have been, and assuredly prove to be, the means of fertility, and consequently wealth; nor would it prove an uninstructive enquiry to examine this subject closely as far as it relates to our Provincial Agriculture.

Green Crops are the only sure basis of good Farming; and before a climax of improvement can be attained by this, or any other country the system of Green Cropping must become general and universal. This desirable state of things can only, however, succeed to the first and greatest of all improvements, as connected with the cultivation