

trade in alcohol as carried on at present would be prohibited. (Hear, hear.) But until that time did come he did not believe that the Bill before the House would work favourably. Practically, the object of the measure in interdicting an habitual drunkard would not be successful. It was unfortunate enough that a man should give way to excessive drinking, but it would only add to his misery, debase his manhood, lower his dignity, by taking him before a judge, and placing him under restraint. Such a proceeding would not only disgrace the drunkard himself, but his family and friends; and who would like to take the responsibility of having the man brought before a judge for the purpose of confining him. He did not see that the Bill would be effective.

Mr. DEROCHE said no one doubted the great evil of intemperance, and if the House could do anything to diminish it, it was their duty to do so. He was glad that this Bill had been introduced, though it was not yet up to the public expectation. He believed if no other result should follow from it, the public expression of opinion by members of the House against the drinking customs of this country would be productive of great good. This Bill would not abolish the evil, but it would mitigate it. It was not the drunkard alone that suffered, it was his unfortunate relatives, and these the Bill would protect as well as the drunkard himself. An objection to this Bill was that it would create differences between a man and his wife, and that all legislation that tended to create ill feeling between husband and wife should be discouraged. He quite agreed with that, but he asked if any greater difficulty could be created between a man and his wife than that which was created by the vice of drinking. It was said it would divest a man of his manhood to subject him to interdiction. But could a man who had become an habitual drunkard become any lower in his own esteem? The object of this Bill was not to create a difficulty between man and wife but to restore the husband to his right reason and bring about a reconciliation with his wife. The member for East Toronto had stated that the use of liquors for medical and mechanical purposes was beneficial, but this Bill did not interfere with that use. He had also stated that he did not wish to interfere with those who did not drink to excess. The Bill did not interfere with that class. Looking at this Bill from the high point of benevolence, the good of our fellow-men, he believed that if the Bill became law it would be a great boon to the people of this Province. It would serve to create throughout this land a healthier public sentiment upon this subject; it would show the people of Ontario that their representatives would do what they could to strike at one of the greatest evils that affected the body politic.

Mr. CALVIN considered this measure was a wise one, inasmuch as it would protect the property of the habitual drunkard, but he thought there would be some difficulty in proving a man an habitual drunkard. Upon his island he had effectually stamped out intoxication, in fact he had there in force regulations with regard to the sale of liquor that had effectually stamped out drunkenness, and temperance now reigned supreme. If he saw a man with a bottle of liquor in his pocket he (Mr. Calvin) went up to him and took it out of his pocket and broke it. (Hear, hear.) And he thought if the House could carry out a law so stringent they would soon observe a beneficial change in the country. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Men in the habit of drinking had come to him without property of any description, a few years ago, but now they were happy and respectable. It was forty years since he had tasted strong drink, and there he stood a monument 75 years old, proving the benefits of temperance. He had seen hundreds of men with whom he had associated go down to an untimely grave through indulging in spirituous liquors—many not being considered drunkards. They were now grappling with a lion which was causing great desolation throughout the country, and if they were to neglect the opportunity of preventing it from continuing its work, they would not be doing their duty. (Hear, hear.) With these remarks he expressed his intention of going for the Bill.

Mr. FAREWELL, after alluding to the importance of this and kindred questions, said there was a unanimity of opinion that something should be done to lessen the evil resulting from the consumption of strong drinks, but there was a difference of opinion as to what that something should be. The whole of the people in the country held up their hands aghast, in view of the wretchedness, misery, and destitution existing and in view of the time lost by this insidious practice. There were

three classes of persons for whom he claimed this country should legislate. There were those with regard to whom his hon. friend the Provincial Secretary intended to legislate. As far as that Bill was concerned, it was well advised. He referred to the establishment of an Inebriate Asylum. Another class of persons for whom the country ought to legislate was the class referred to in the Bill introduced by his hon. friend the member for Stormont. He (Mr. Farewell) was not going to deliver a temperance lecture on the present occasion. There was a Bill in the hands of some gentlemen in the House which would afford ample scope for going into the merits of the case fully. He was against drinking even moderately. He did not refer to a man like his hon. friend from East Toronto, who drank none at all, but to the class who asserted that they could take a glass when they required it, and knew when they had had enough. These persons were looked to as an example. The man from whom mischief was to be apprehended was the man who said he was firm in his determination, took his glass when he chose, and let it alone when he chose. Persons did not become drunkards all at once. The vice crept on insidiously. It was necessary that a prohibitory liquor law should be passed, but by this he did not mean that no liquor should be manufactured or sold. It should only be used for chemical, medicinal, and mechanical purposes. It was said in certain cases physicians ordered the use of spirituous liquors, and in these cases he thought it ought to be used. It was a liquid that should not be used as a beverage, but for the purposes he had just described. The whole mischief was done in using spirits as a beverage. The liquor traffic might be looked upon as the upas tree of the present age, and the passing of this Bill would be the lopping of one of the branches of that tree. He confessed it looked like beginning at the wrong end, beginning where they ought to end. He would much rather they should begin by striking at the root of the evil which had so devastating an effect upon these provinces. But they were told that evening, by gentlemen who had a right to know of what they were speaking, that it would be unconstitutional to do so, and that it was a power reserved to the Dominion Parliament. If that were the case they would have to legislate where they could. They would have to lop off the branches of the deadly tree and do what they could in order to make the country what it ought to be. He wished to adduce one argument in favour of the passing of this measure which had not been adverted to. Every gentleman in that House knew, every person in the country knew, that there were persons in the country who were destroying their substances by drinking them away. It was desirable to introduce into this country a system and to pass a law which would prevent the continuance of that sort of thing. The hon. gentleman instanced cases in which the heads of families had rendered their homes wretched and introduced poverty into their homes by dissipation, where men had squandered their personal and real estate for the purpose of gratifying their cravings for liquor. If they were interested in one thing more than another, it was the fact that those who were growing up from tender years to manhood and womanhood should be educated and taught as far as they could be and brought up under the blessed and happy influence of the family circle. The Bill before the House, if passed, would protect those homes, save estates from being squandered, and children from being scattered over the world before they should. If the machinery of the Bill was not quite correct, he urged them to join together after its second reading and refer it to a committee which would perfect the machinery, and make it such a Bill as would prove a blessing to thousands in this country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GRANGE said the members of that House were placed there for the purpose of promoting the interests of the country, and of improving it morally, socially, and religiously. Looking at the question of the sale of strong drinks it was found that it debased the country, crippled it financially, and spread misery and desolation around. It was therefore the duty of the House to legislate in the direction which must prove beneficial to the country. The hon. gentleman compared the number of deaths which had resulted through the use of spirituous liquors to those resulting from ordinary diseases. They could not prevent the manufacture of alcohol, but if they prevented the sale there would be no necessity for the manufacture, and the death-blow would, consequently, be struck by the prohibition of the sale. He contended that they had a right to totally prohibit the sale of strong liquors. With regard to the contention that this prohibition would materially affect the commercial interests of the Province, he held that the traffic was demoralizing and debasing. After