

were farm labourers, gave false answers, and so were sent to Ontario at the expense of the Province; and our local agents throughout the Province, on finding them here, had to find them such positions as they could. Some of these had again returned east, some of them had been sent to different parts of the Province, some had been sent out of the country altogether, and generally there had been a good deal of suffering among them. This House could not, of course, control the immigration policy of the Dominion, but the relations, in regard to this matter, between the Province and the Dominion were now undergoing revision. No encouragement had been given by the agents or by the literature of the Province circulated throughout Great Britain to any persons to come to this country except tenant farmers who would bring some capital with them. On the whole, he thought the observations of his hon. friend were directed against what, if pursued, would next year be found to be a grievance, and affecting many people coming to this country in a way which was very undesirable.

Mr. WHITE suggested that the return should state the country whence the emigrants came, and their nationality. Perhaps this return would show whether, as was stated last session, some emigrants from old France had come out and settled in the County of Essex.

Mr. HARDY believed the information to that effect had been obtained from a statement made at the Public Accounts Committee. During the election the hon. gentleman had been searching for these French emigrants. He wondered if the hon. gentleman was making the same search when he went down the river to look after some cows last fall. (Laughter.)

Mr. LAUDER thought the information on the subject in the Public Accounts Committee was a suggestion of the Provincial Secretary himself.

Mr. HARDY—No.

The motion was carried.

#### LIQUOR LICENSE ACT.

Mr. CREIGHTON, in moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Liquor License Act, said there was throughout the Province a good deal of irritation on the question of temperance, and temperance people were too often put on the defensive. Much of this irritation was owing to the secrecy connected with the proceedings of License Commissioners, who were not, like other public officials, required to make a return of their receipts and expenditures. He cited the expenses of the License Commissioners, and complained that those of the Commission in North Grey were much higher than those of any other Commission. The Bill was to require every Commission to make a return of its accounts to the Council of the municipality in which it was placed.

Mr. HARDY said that the Dunkin Act was in force in North Grey at the time spoken of by his hon. friend, when the expenses of Commissioners were so high.

Mr. CREIGHTON—I beg to correct the Provincial Secretary. The Dunkin Act was not in force at that time.

Mr. HARDY—I think my hon. friend is wrong there.

Mr. HUNTER stated that he knew that the Act was in force at the time.

Mr. HARDY—I am almost certain it was. During that time riots of considerable importance took place in North Grey, and it was in carrying out the law against serious opposition that the expense was incurred. The same was true of South Brant, and to some extent in other places, where great opposition was shown to the carrying out of the law. The difficulty was not with the Crooks' law, but in this particular case of North Grey and others with the Dunkin Act, for which the hon. member himself had voted. And now the hon. member, mousing a little about the cause of temperance three or four years after the whole affair was over, called for details of these expenditures, leaving it to be inferred that he believed that there was no justification for it.

Mr. CREIGHTON said he insinuated nothing. He only wanted information.

Mr. HARDY said that the Department was making arrangements which would enable it at the end of the present license year to give the various municipal councils throughout the Province detailed information relating to the accounts of License Commissioners, and that would be done—so that the object aimed at by the hon. gentlemen would be attained without any necessity for his Bill. It was not desirable to open this license question at every turn unless there were very serious reasons for doing so. He therefore requested the hon. gentleman to withdraw his Bill.

Mr. CREIGHTON said that the year of large expenditure to which he had referred was 1876, while the Dunkin Act did not come into force till the 1st of May, 1877. He would not consent to withdraw the Bill.

Mr. HUNTER said he had a distinct recollection of the Dunkin Act being in force in Grey in a portion of 1876. There had been no difficulty in enforcing the License or the Temperance Act in South Grey, and North Grey must contain an exceptionally unruly set of people if the same could not be done without the assistance of volunteers. The License Commissioners were not always assisted in their arduous duties by those who should assist them.

Mr. MEREDITH was inclined to think the Provincial Secretary opposed this Bill because it was proposed by a member on the Opposition side of the House. It was a strange doctrine coming from a Reform Government that the License Commissioners should not be required to furnish information as to how their money was expended. His hon. friend was quite right in pressing his Bill.

Mr. MOWAT was sorry the hon. member for North Grey had not acquiesced in the suggestion made by the Provincial Secretary and withdrawn the Bill when, he was informed that the Department was now preparing to have the very information given to which this Bill related. He fancied, however, that he could make a little capital out of the matter. (Hear, hear.) The Government did not want to shirk their responsibility as a Government, and when any amendments or additions to the present law were required they would not hesitate to take the responsibility of making them. (Cheers.) This

was too important a subject to be treated by any hon. member as a means of making a little political capital.

Mr. MEREDITH—Does the hon. member for Middlesex want to make political capital by his Bill?

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. member for Middlesex would have good sense enough to withdraw his Bill if he was told that the object it aimed at was about to be served in another way. He would not desire to make political capital. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. CREIGHTON—I rise to a point of order. It is contrary to the rules of this House for any hon. member to impute motives. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. MOWAT said it was a new order that no hon. member could impute political motives. (Hear, hear.) The leader of the Opposition himself had imputed to the Government a motive in opposing this Bill, and he hoped the hon. member for North Grey would try to raise the standard of his leader. (Cheers and laughter.) It was not desirable that this Bill should be passed when the information it asked for was in course of preparation, and when the Government were fully prepared to take the responsibility of any legislation on this subject when it became necessary. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. WATERS, as the promoter of a similar Bill, desired to say that he did not introduce his measure in any spirit of opposition to the Crooks' Act, as he considered that it was a most successful and important law. (Cheers.) But the present system of not having the accounts of the License Inspectors sent to the municipal councils had been taken advantage of by some parties at the last election to make capital against the Government by alleging that the License Commissioners were very extravagant in conducting their duties. He had been unable to put his hands upon any such document as would furnish him with a means of refuting the statements they made—until he had received from the license authorities a copy of the statement of the Provincial Secretary. It was merely with a view of securing such information on future occasions that he had introduced his Bill, but as the Government had promised to introduce a measure to meet this difficulty—

Several hon. members—No, no.

Mr. HARDY—The Government have provided for meeting the difficulty.

Mr. WATERS contended that as provision was made for furnishing the desired information he would withdraw his Bill.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. BADGEROW, renewing the discussion, said that if the expense of carrying on the Act had been greater than now this showed that the Act was working in the right way. Those in Opposition to the Crooks Act had allied themselves with those who sought to sell liquor illegally. Honourable gentlemen opposite, when the Dunkin Act agitation was going forward, claimed that the Crooks Act was the best Act of the kind the country had ever had. The experience of East York, he believed, had proven this. (Cheers.) Their opposition now was, he believed, largely due to a feeling of jealousy at the excellent working of the Crooks law. On this point, as well as all others, he was in favour of the country being furnished with full information, but they must not forget that the Government—not the inspectors—were responsible to the people, and the Government secured all necessary information on this point, and furnished it in full to the House.

Mr. WHITE accused the Government of making use of this license law as a political engine, and of inspectors and commissioners as political agents. The measure of his hon. friend was in the right direction; it asked for information to which the people were entitled, and if it did not become law now it would at some future time, as hon. gentlemen opposite had to admit that its principle was right. He took occasion to refer, amid loud laughter, to his dealings in the importation of cows, and alleged that those cows had been properly entered and the duty upon them paid.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he was in favour of the old Reform principle that the people on all subjects should have the fullest possible information, and when the Government were already obtaining the information which was sought by this Bill its mover should withdraw it. The tinkering with the statutes by little Bills like this should not be encouraged. The Reform party had great reason to complain of the conduct of the temperance men in the Conservative party, who, he believed, had subordinated their temperance principles to the interests of their party. (Hear, hear.) He would not consent to vote in favour of putting an unnecessary Bill upon the statute book.

Mr. WATERS, in reply to previous speakers, held that after the Government had conceded what was asked for both in his Bill and in the Bill of the member for North Grey he would not be furthering the interests of his constituents by obstructing legislation and refusing to withdraw his Bill.

Mr. MERRICK said that if the principle of this Bill was, as admitted, good, he could see no reason why the Government should not consent to its passage, so that not only this but succeeding Governments would be compelled to place this information before the country. He trusted that at some future time legislation would be introduced to do away with these inspectors entirely, as the system enabled the Government to find places for their political friends, who made use of their offices to forward the interests of their party. The fact was, therefore, that the municipalities were made to pay the salaries of men who were the political agents of the Government. These inspectors often neglected to make the returns of moneys due to the municipalities at the proper time. He had received a letter which stated that the Treasurer of the village of Kempville had in August last applied to the License Inspector of that county for money then due, and had received a reply to the effect that it could not be paid over until next spring. It had not been paid yet.

Mr. McMAHON expressed his intention of opposing this Bill. Our present License Act had been more beneficial than any other measure ever passed in this country on the same subject. The statement of the Provincial Secretary that he was preparing to furnish the information sought for rendered the Bill unnecessary, and when any changes in the License Act were to be made the responsibility of making them