

be punished by forfeiture of the license. The number of licenses granted in each municipality were not to be increased. This Act did not apply to shop licenses, and did not interfere with them in any way. In addition to beer and wine license a clause had been introduced giving the magistrate who found liquor upon such licensed premises contrary to law, power to confiscate and destroy such liquors. He had thought it better to allow the magistrate this power than to let it remain in the hands of the inspectors. To in some measure protect hotel-keepers he had introduced a provision to more severely punish those selling under a shop license who might be found guilty of contravention of the law. Those convicted would not have their license renewed. This, he thought, was going as far as public sympathy would bear them out. Too stringent liquor laws were much like too stringent customs laws—they tended to produce smuggling. He had, however, embodied a clause in the Bill making the fines of those convicted of selling liquor without license more stringent, by providing that for the second offence the fine should be not less than forty and not more than sixty dollars, with costs, and that for the third offence the person so convicted should be sentenced to a term of three months' imprisonment at hard labour. He had also provided that those who sold the liquor—whether it be the proprietor of the house or only an agent employed for the purpose—could be punished; but both proprietor and agent could not be punished for the same offence. The Bill also provided that an application to quash a conviction might be carried to the Court of Appeal. Certain leading newspapers of the Province had made the charges that the Boards of Inspectors were a political body, and that their influence was used for political purposes. To ascertain the truth of these charges he had sent a circular to the various Inspectors, and he found from their reply that during the past year of 1,256 applications from Reformers, 1,102 were granted and 154 refused; of 2,978 applications from Conservatives, 2,704 were granted and 274 refused; and of 319 applications from persons belonging to neither political party (chiefly women), 253 were granted and 67 refused. The grants to Reformers were thus about 67 per cent. of their applications; to Conservatives, nearly 91 per cent.; and to non-politicians, 79 per cent. To carry the comparison further, of the total number of these applicants for licenses, about 29 per cent. were Reformers; 65 per cent. Conservatives, and 7 per cent. non-politicians. He thought that the various provisions of the Bill would be found to be acceptable to both the licensed victuallers and those who held temperance views.

Mr. MERRICK thought the country was in favour of a rigid license law, but he was afraid that his hon. friend had gone too far. He questioned as to the correctness of the statement that a majority of the successful applicants for licenses for the past year were Conservatives. The reports of Inspectors, he thought, were largely coloured with a view to their own personal interests, as they would try to show that the Act under which they obtained their emoluments was working well. With the general working of the law he did not think the public would find fault, but he did think that fault would be found by the municipalities with the expenditure on account of the Inspectors and Commissioners. Sixty thousand dollars was thus spent out of funds which would otherwise go to the municipalities. As to the Inspectors he would favour the appointment of these officers by the municipalities themselves, allowing them to thereby save the large sum they now contributed for the maintenance of Inspectors. He maintained that the contention of no undue political influence being exercised by the Commissioners was not borne out by the facts. He thought a full discussion would engender a strong feeling against the continuance of Government Inspectors. As to the proposal to impose a duty on druggists in places where the Temperance Act was in force, he understood the intention was to create a revenue from that duty out of which to pay the expenses of the Commissioners and Inspectors of the locality. He objected to the reduction of the limit in which druggists could sell, viz.: from twelve ounces to four, on the ground that medicine used in preparations for the cure of cattle usually required larger quantities of liquor than the proposed limit.

The motion was carried.

On the item of immigration, \$41,200; decrease, \$8,750.

Mr. HARDY explained the cause of the increase. He stated that their European agent was now stationed at Liverpool. The item of \$15,000 for carrying immigrants from Quebec to Ontario would not in future be asked for, as they had notified the Dominion Government that the Province would no longer pay two-thirds of the cost as heretofore. In 1878 the Dominion Government had arranged with the Grand Trunk Railway for an increased allowance for this carriage without consulting the Ontario Government and the Ontario Government had always refused to recognize that new arrangement. There was, therefore, a balance of \$5,000 in their account with the Dominion Government not yet adjusted.

Mr. LAUDER complained that there had been paid a sum of \$2,371 to the Great Western Railway for the carriage of immigrants—a railway that ran out of the country. He would infer then that a large proportion of the immigrants had been assisted out of the Province to the United States. He also could not understand an expenditure of \$1,514 for meals, lodgings, &c., at Hamilton, as that would be also for immigrants going over the Great Western Railway. He thought the Province should not vote such a large sum for immigration as that asked for.

Mr. HARDY said that as the Great Western, covering the same ground, was carrying immigrants for one cent a mile, while the Grand Trunk charged one and one-third cent a mile, the cheapest, therefore, running west got the traffic. Mr. Smith's statement showed the destination of each immigrant arriving at Hamilton, and no meal tickets were given to any one who was not going to settle in the Province. He had, however, remonstrated with Mr. Smith, a Dominion agent, as to the large expenditure for meals, and he had promised a smaller expenditure in future.

The item passed.

On the item of \$27,000 Mechanics' Institutes.

Mr. ROSS disapproved of the continuance of the Association of Mechanics' Institutes, which imposed a tax of \$20,000 for its maintenance. He

thought the Association did very little except meet once a year.

Mr. HUNTER entirely concurred in the views expressed by the last speaker.

Mr. YOUNG, being President of the Provincial Association, did not object to the criticism on his account. He defended the necessity of the Provincial Association, and referred hon. members to the views of the delegates to that Association. They were not desirous of abolishing the Association. The Association received about \$1,000 a year. The whole expenses of that Association was not over \$400, and the other \$600 was applied to the improvement of the Institutes according to the votes of the delegates. They offered prizes for evening classes, &c. The number of delegates attending the annual meeting was between 40 and 50. It was all very well to say that the Association was unnecessary, but why were delegates not sent there to say so? The Association had effected a great improvement in the status of the Institution. He had not sought the position of President last year, and it was unlikely he would be in that office for another year. He had no doubt that the Association had done a great deal of good in the past for these institutes, and would, he trusted, continue to do a good work. (Applause.)

REPORTS.

Mr. HARDY presented the report of the Agricultural College, and also a return showing the cost of conveyance of lunatics to the asylums, and boys to the Reformatory.

It being six o'clock the Committee rose.

AFTER RECESS.

In Committee.

Mr. ROSS, again taking up the question of the Mechanics' Institutes Association, said he had not been convinced by the remarks of the member for Brant. He thought the larger Institutes were benefited at the expense of the smaller in the matter.

Mr. MILLER could not very well see the utility of forty men meeting, making up a report, and then going home and receiving that report. He saw that all the money received by the Association was not expended in books, for they had \$1,500 at credit in Bank of Toronto. He thought it would be better to disband the Association and distribute that \$1,500 amongst the Institutes.

Mr. HAY drew attention to the grants to the Agricultural Societies, \$55,000. It was an important subject. They had, all told, some 250 societies, and six or seven societies for each county. The money was divided by giving two-fifths of the grant of \$700 to the Electoral Society in towns, and the balance to the township societies. He thought agricultural societies should receive aid according to the work done. The division of money was unfair in his opinion. He questioned whether the members of many of these societies were not encouraged by the grant to be lazy and indifferent, and whether they did not make money out of the grant. The grant should be according to the work done. Another point was the matter of shows. There was a growing feeling that there should be larger and fewer shows. Any township having 200 rate-payers may form an agricultural society having but thirty members. The result was that they had many weak societies. There were always a few men in a locality ready to get up an agitation for a show. The question was, how to get rid of the difficulty. These few men said we have a show once a year, and we will not give it up. He thought the time had arrived when they should suggest a remedy. They needed union. He would suggest, instead of the present basis, that they should fix the membership of a society at 250 instead of 50. This would develop local vigour and make a stronger society. The effect would be of weak societies uniting with larger ones, and would form a strong combination. He was sure that consolidation and the raising of the standard would be beneficial to the agriculturists themselves. He was sure he would be sustained by intelligent agriculturists in some such scheme. It mitigated against the true interests of a society having a membership of 50 to receive the grant. At all events he thought that the question needed ventilation and discussion. They might say, "Oh, that will lead to union with societies of towns and cities." Well, that was what was wanted, he thought. In the large centres they could unite and raise a larger sum of money than in the smaller places, and these were the proper centres to develop agricultural strength. He would abolish all distinction between electoral societies. Why a society in a town should get \$450, and another society in a township doing more work should only receive \$150 he could not understand. Let the question as to how much they should get be fixed by how much they gave in return. There was a widespread feeling that the system was completely overdone, and the tendency was towards consolidation. If his suggestion was adopted the weaker societies would amalgamate with the larger ones, and develop a strength only to be found in union.

Mr. LAUDER referring to the Mechanics' Institutes Association, said he thought that the assessment of five per cent. was well soent. He had read the annual report with interest. The Institutes themselves should decide as to whether they wished to do away with the assessment. But he had never heard of any complaints, and he thought things should remain as they were.

Mr. HUNTER thought that the point was well raised in the House as to the Mechanics' Association. He had heard no good argument for the continuance of the Mechanics' Association. He contended that the Institutes got no return for the assessment, and that the Association had outlived its usefulness and should be abolished.

Mr. CASCADEN did not concur in the views held by Mr. Hay. The Township Associations had done more good than all the County and Provincial shows in Ontario. In cases where the shows were held in towns and villages, as far as his experience went, he had found that the hotel-keepers and others made it their sole object to plunder the farmers who attended. The feeling among the farmers was to wipe out the Provincial shows, and not the township or electoral district shows.

Mr. DEROCHE said it was his impression that a great many of the small shows did but very little good, and that there was a good deal of humbug about them. A large amount of money was spent for very little good, and he thought it was time that Government interfered, and by suppressing the smaller shows direct the money