

the consumption of liquor is a very apt one. A campaign to that end, whether conducted by the radio or in the Press, would to my mind be a practical method of attacking the problem. We all admit that liquor, if indeed it does not do us harm, cannot do us very much good. But I feel sure my honourable friend must realize, as the rest of us do, how difficult it is at any time to impose definite and extensive restrictions on the consumption of beer, wine and liquors. It is particularly difficult in Canada at this time, because liquor is legally sold throughout a large part of the country and people feel they have a right to purchase it and drink it. That is why I think a reasonable attempt on the part of the Government to influence the people to decrease their consumption of alcoholic beverages would be a very important step in the right direction. The honourable senator should be commended for bringing this matter before the Senate, and I think from the remarks I heard in the other House the Government is giving it consideration.

The Bill now before us was introduced by the Minister of Finance for the purpose of increasing the revenues of the country, and of course if we drink more liquor those revenues will be correspondingly increased. On the other hand, if there is a reduction in the consumption of liquor the national revenue will not be increased as he had hoped.

My honourable friend is correct in saying that if we could induce people to drink less beer and buy more war bonds more money would flow into the treasury. But in case my honourable friend may feel that no response is made to her splendid suggestions, I have thought it desirable to draw the attention of the House to these facts in order that honourable members may realize the control of liquor is very difficult to handle, even more so at the present time than in the past. I am sure that when those in charge read my honourable friend's remarks they will appreciate the very reasonable suggestions she has made and give them their best and, we hope, favourable consideration.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators, I think the honourable member should be given credit for bringing this matter to our attention. There is no argument in favour of alcoholic beverages, for the simple reason that you are better without them.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: You may miss a good deal of fun by abstaining, but undoubtedly you are better without alcoholic beverages.

During the last war and for some time after, in the province where I live, prohibition was in force. If there ever was a period in the history of Manitoba when young people were led astray through blind pigs and similar places where they could get liquor illegally, it was during that period. Several organizations to-day would have our Governments, provincial and federal, do something drastic in order to prevent the increasing consumption of liquor, but I would say to my honourable friend: I do not care what Government action may be taken, unless you can educate the people to be temperate, any attempt to restrict the sale of liquor will simply create another problem, one far worse than the problem confronting us to-day.

I have a great deal of respect for the organizations which are advocating prohibition—

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: I do not think I made use of the word "prohibition" at all. I was not speaking from that particular angle.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I will say restriction of the sale and consumption of liquor. That there are evils in the liquor traffic no one will deny, and my suggestion to the honourable member and to those organizations who desire to curb the liquor traffic is that they educate the people and warn them of the dangers of intemperance, rather than attempt to bring back prohibition with all its evil consequences.

I represent a county in Manitoba bordered by the states of Minnesota and Dakota and by the province of Ontario. During those prohibition years you could not go into any home without finding some home-made alcoholic beverage. I certainly should not like to see that condition return. I repeat, the only way of getting rid of intemperance is by education, and I would urge every organization interested in temperance to stress the evils of excessive indulgence in alcoholic beverages, rather than ask the Government to take drastic action.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. W. E. FOSTER: Honourable senators, I have had some experience in the administration of liquor laws, having had a prohibition law left on my door-step. This had to be abandoned in favour of a form of control. I quite agree with all the honourable member from St. Jean Baptiste (Hon. A. L. Beaubien) has said as to the difficulty of handling this problem. The only way is to educate the people to a realization of the dangers of intemperance. But at the present time it seems to me that as we have restrictions upon the consumption of other commodities,